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REPORT

OF THE

CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(INCORPORATED)

FOR THE

HALF-YEAR ENDING

30th JUNE, 1904.

Colombo:

PRINTED AT THE "TIMES OF CEYLON" PRESS.

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CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(INCORPORATED 1895.)

ESTABLISHED 25th MARCH, 1839.

COMMITTEE:

Chairman:—THE HON. MR. W. H. FIGG.

Vice-Chairman:—R. DAVIDSON, ESQ.

R. F. S. HARDIE, ESQ.
A. C. RAINNIE, ESQ.
H. GOODWYN, ESQ.
G. SHAW TAYLOR, ESQ.
F. C. ALLEN, ESQ.
W. SHAKSPEARE, ESQ.

Secretary:—F. M. SIMPSON, ESQ.

LIST OF MEMBERS:

Messrs. Aitken Spence & Co.
" Anglo-Ceylon & General Estates Co., Ltd.
Bank of Madras.
Baur, Esq., A.
" Bosanquet & Co.
" Böhringer, Ch. & A.
" Bois Brothers & Co.
" Boustead Brothers.
" Brodie & Co.
" Cargills Ltd.
" Carson & Co.
" Ceylon Wharfage Co., Ltd.
" Clark, Spence & Co.
" Clark, Young & Co.
Creasy, Esq., E. B.
" Crosfield, Lampard & Co.
" Cumberbatch & Co.
" Colombo Commercial Co., Ltd.
Chartered Bank of India Australia & China.
" Darley, Butler & Co.
" Delmege, Forsyth & Co.
" Delmege, Reid & Co.,
De Soysa, Esq., C. H.
" Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
" Eastern Produce & Estates Co., Ltd.
" Finlay, Muir & Co.
" Forbes & Walker.
" Freudenberg & Co.
" Frazer & Co., Gordon
" Framjee, Bhikajee & Co.
" Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates & Agency Co., Ltd.
" Geo. White Bartleet & Co.
" Gordon & Wilson.
" Hayley & Co., C. P.
" Hall & Co., J. C.
" Henderson & Co.
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation
Horsfall, Esq., C. W.

Messrs. Keell & Waldock.
King, Esq., W. S.
" Krawehl Coal Co., Ltd.
" Leechman & Co.
" Lipton, Ltd.
" Lewis Brown & Co.
" Lee, Hedges & Co.,
" MacIntyre Brothers.
" Mackwood & Co.
" Mackwood & Co., Charles
Marinitsch, Esq., G. A.
Messageries Maritimes Cie.
Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.
" Molchanoff, Pechatnoff & Co.
National Bank of India, Ltd.
" Odell & Co.
" Orient Co., Ltd.
" Pappe & Co., H. J.
" Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.
" Robertson & Co., J. M.
" Rodewald & Heath.
" Schulze Brothers & Co.
" Shrager Brothers.
" Skrine & Co.
" Somerville & Co.
" Stcherbatchoff, Tchokoff & Co.
" Stevenson & Sons.
" Steuart & Co., Geo.
Street, Esq., F. F.
Symons, Esq., C. E. H.
" Tarrant & Co.
" Theodor & Rawlins.
" Thompson, Fraser, Ramsay, Proprietory, Ltd.
" The Trading Co. (successor to A. G. A. Koosnetzoff & Co.)
" Vavasseur & Co., Ltd., J. H.
" Volkart Brothers.
" Walker Sons & Co., Ltd.
" Whittall & Co.
" Wright & Co., C. M.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

(INCORPORATED)

FOR THE

Half-Year Ending 30th June, 1904.

Your Committee have again the pleasure to submit their Report and Accounts for the Half-Year ending 30th June, 1904.

General Meeting.—The Half-Yearly General Meeting of the Chamber was held on 16th February, 1904, the Minutes of which appear in the Appendix.

Of the various subjects that have occupied the attention of your Committee during the period under review the following are those of chief interest :—

British Import Duty on Tea.—At the last half-yearly meeting of the Chamber it was resolved that a joint deputation from the Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association should wait on His Excellency the Governor to urge a remission of two pence per lb. duty on tea imported into the United Kingdom. This was done on 22nd February, and H. E. the Governor transmitted a telegram to the Secretary of State conveying the views of the two representative bodies, backed by his favourable personal recommendations.

Instead however of any remission of the two pence duty imposed as the war tax, on the introduction of the Budget in April the announcement was made that two pence would be added to the tea duty, raisng it to 8d. per lb. This was received with indignation by all interested in the tea industry, and the Chamber of Commerce and Planters' Association again jointly telegraphed to the Secretary of State through H. E. the Governor entering their respectful protest

against the imposition of a further two pence per lb. duty, and pointing out that a crushing burden of over one hundred per cent. on the value of their staple product is calculated to seriously imperil the prospects and thereby the welfare of the Colony.

This grave injustice to a struggling industry has been accentuated by the London Association with statistical arguments showing that the high duty hitherto prevailing had affected consumption, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer has failed to show the sympathy that such representations ought to have elicited, and has, on the contrary, endeavoured, although unsuccessfully, to controvert them.

On the 7th June still another telegram from the Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association was despatched to the Secretary of State through H. E. the Governor, urging reconsideration of the case before the increase in the duty should be finally decided upon, but remonstrances have been of no avail.

Ceylon has never been behind in its outward manifestation of loyalty, and in supporting the Imperial Idea, and in the words of the telegram to the Secretary of State " this Crown Colony is worthy of better consideration." There are many other commodities which should have been taxed before the tea industry was again touched, and the imposition has been adopted irrespective of the fairness or otherwise of the incidence of the taxation.

The immediate result will probably be a further falling off in consumption and a decline in price to admit of the consumer being supplied at little if at all over that he was accustomed to pay, so that the tax will largely come out of the pocket of the producers. At the sametime, China teas of inferior quality are likely to be largely imported because of their cheapness, unless indeed this is ultimately counteracted by the introduction of preferential duties. For another year however the industry appears to be doomed to bear the treatment it is receiving, but during that time there will, it is hoped, be no relaxation of the agitation which will be necessary to have the duty brought down to reasonable limits.

Increase of Tea Cess.—At the "Thirty Committee" Meeting held in Kandy on May 14th, this question was fully discussed and in view of the imposition of an extra 2d on Tea imported into the United Kingdom, it was decided by a large majority that increased effort should be made to push our Teas in Foreign Markets. To effect this an increase in the Cess was recommended to 50 cents per 100 lbs. and this recommendation was submitted to the Ceylon Association in London for their views and support. Various opinions were expressed on the scheme in London and finally an acreage poll was taken on the "Thirty Committee's" scheme and other counter schemes. Result thereof will be found in the Appendix.

Following on this another Meeting of the "Thirty Committee" was held on 25th June at which it was decided in view of the opposition to a 50 cents cess to support a 40 cents cess and submit same for the approval of a General Meeting of the Planters' Association.

The "Thirty Committee" considered that this cess would produce the minimum sum with which justice to the work in hand could be done.

In addition to submitting this proposal to the Planters' Association the Colombo Section of the "Thirty Committee" with other members thereof pleaded earnestly for an acreage poll on the ground that this was the most practical method of obtaining material on which to arrive at a sound conclusion and further that we were really committed to this course in consequence of London having made the move.

Your representatives were assured that a poll of the acreage would be taken.

The subsequent history of this question is well known to those who take any interest in it. The General Meeting of the Planters' Association was held in Kandy on July 9th. To the resolution from the chair there were two amendments one of which was carried by the aid of proxies. On the question as to the poll of the acreage being put those in the room were very largely in favour of it, but the proxies again being utilized this was outvoted. Your

Committee has no desire to pass any opinion on that meeting, but cannot refrain from expressing its surprise and regret that a member of the "Thirty Committee" should have resorted to the use of proxies to oppose the poll of the acreage. As the question is still under consideration it is not desirable to say more in the meantime.

Prevention of Sale of Rubbishy Teas.—This important subject has not been lost sight of by your Committee but difficulties have presented themselves in connection with the carrying out of the recommendations submitted by the Committtee of the Tea Traders' Association and approved of by the Planters' Association and this Chamber at the last General Meeting.

The Assistance of Government, however, is being sought in the matter and it is hoped that an ordinance can be framed which will enable the recommendations referred to to be carried into effect.

Telephone Service.—Correspondence will show that your Committee have not ceased to agitate for the improvement of the existing service and for the extension to private residences. A report drawn up by the Special Committee appointed to consider the question of re-arrangement of the Fort and Suburban Services with a view to extension has been received from Government and will be found in the Appendix.

In reply your Committee, while unable to offer any expression of opinion as to the scheme formulated, have strongly represented to Government the urgent importance of prompt measures being taken to carry out extensions the necessity for which is accentuated by the steady growth of Colombo. It is hoped that Government will view the representations of the Chamber in an enterprising spirit, as there is little doubt with a moderate subscription telephonic communication would be largely availed of.

Revised Customs Overtime Charges.—A year having elapsed since the revised scale of Overtime Charges came into force it was decided to ask Government to favour the Chamber with a statement shewing the total amount collected in respect of Overtime Charges at the revised rate and how the income derived therefrom had been disbursed.

In reply Government forwarded a copy of a report furnished by the Principal Collector of Customs on the working of the new scale of Overtime payments which will be found in the Appendix of this Report.

It is considered that the amount paid in overtime fees to certain of the Customs Officers (as shewn in the report) is still somewhat excessive, and that the sum expended on Electric Lighting and Installation requires a more detailed explanation than is at present afforded. These questions are now receiving the attention of the Committee.

Citronella Oil Industry of Ceylon.—Government having submitted a report from the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, suggesting a scheme to arrest the decline of this Industry, for any remarks the Chamber might wish to offer, your Committee invited the specific opinions of those chiefly interested in the export of Citronella and of the principal import houses in the United Kingdom.

As a result some diversity of opinion was expressed as to how far the scheme suggested would be workable and also as to the comparative value of the tests employed for the detection of adulteration.

With respect to the fears entertained that if adulteration was not in a great measure checked, the Ceylon Industry would be seriously affected by that of Java, it is worthy of note that the exports so far this year exceed those for the corresponding period of last year by about 30 % which points to this trade being still in a healthy condition.

The various opinions received have been sent in to Government for their private information.

Metric System of Weights and Measures.—No definite information has been received during the period under review as to when this system, with which the Chamber is fully in accord, is likely to be universally adopted, but from advices received from the Decimal Association it would appear that the movement is gaining support throughout the British Empire and is so far advanced as to have passed the second reading in the House of Lords.

Lighting of the Eastern Coast of the Island.—Attention is directed to the correspondence appearing in the appendix relative to the proposd additional Light on Komarie Point.

It is hoped that the existing law which at present precludes the erection and maintenance of new Colonial Lighthouses out of the General Lighthouse Fund may be found capable of amendment, as while the principal Steamship Companies are unanimously in favour of the additional Light they not unnaturally object to pay extra dues when the surplus Capital, now in the hands of the Board of Trade in respect of those levied on account of the Basses and Minicoy Lights, is sufficient to defray the cost of further lighting.

Conference of Indian Chambers of Commerce.—The Bengal Chamber of Commerce addressed this Chamber on 15th February last, inviting them to join the Conference of Indian Chambers it was proposed to hold in January, 1905. In reply your Committee expressed the appreciation of the Chamber at the invitation and stated it hoped to be represented by one or two delegates. Your Committee are of opinion considerable benefit should be derived by this Chamber being able to take part in the discussion of the various important subjects it is intended to bring forward, and in compliance with the request of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce the Committee suggest at the forthcoming General Meeting the nomination of the delegates to represent the Chamber.

Tribunal of Arbitration.—Your Committee have under consideration the advisability of adopting Rules constituting a Tribunal of Arbitration for the determination of Mercantile and other disputes on the lines laid down by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Copies of these Rules have been obtained and referred to the Chamber's Lawyers for Counsel's opinion as to how far if adopted they would be likely to come into conflict with the existing local law.

Your Committee is also of opinion that the institution of a Commercial Court would greatly facilitate the hearing and settlement of Mercantile cases, and it is hoped shortly to lay these views before the Attorney-General for his favourable consideration.

New Railway Time Table.—The Government having courteously invited the Chamber to nominate a representative to confer, in conjunction with representatives of the Planters' Association, with the General Manager of the Railway with a view to making recommendations for the improvement of the existing Time Table your Committee appointed its Vice Chairman, Mr. R. Davidson, as the Chamber's delegate. Expressions of opinion relative to improvements are being invited, and will be submitted to the General Manager.

Crown Agents.—The recent attack in the House of Lords on the "Crown Agents" system has been noticed with much interest and it is hoped that the agitation will be continued until satisfactory reforms are accomplished. Your Committee are watching the matter closely and will lose no suitable opportunity of according any support they can to effect the necessary improvements in the existing system.

Wharf Accommodation.—The Quay wall round the sea frontage of the Ceylon Wharfage Company's premises has now been completed and a line of rails laid along it, enabling the Company's steam cranes to be moved to any spot as required and thereby considerably adding to the landing facilities. The road behind the Wharfage premises has also been finished and enclosed, and is of ample width to allow of the passage of carts in and out without interfering with those that may be actually loading at the delivery doors of G. H. and Q. Warehouses.

The Master Attendant's Jetty has been completed with the exception of the flooring, work on which is rapidly proceeding. It, has also been decided to equip this jetty with electric cranes.

Improvements to the Oil and Plumbago Export Warehouse and Jetty have not yet been commenced, but these, it is understood, will be taken in hand at once and will prove of great assistance in the prompt shipment of cargo.

New Coaling Grounds and Salved Coal.—Nothing further of interest in connection with these subjects has occurred during the period covered by this report. The work of erecting jetties at

the New Coaling Grounds is being pushed forward by the Government and some of the plots will probably shortly be available for occupation. The condition of the sea opposite the coaling ground, however, continues to be a menace to the safe working of coal at the jetties and there is little doubt that this matter will have to be overcome before the ground can be offered on lease for coaling purposes.

The constant supervision, which is now given to the salving of coal, is working satisfactorily.

Government Harbour Tugs.—On receipt of information obtained from other Eastern Ports as to conditions there obtaining in respect to the use of Tugs the Chamber notified Government early in the year that in the opinion of those principally interested the conditions under which it was proposed these should be employed were so stringent as to practically prohibit their use.

Since then considerable attention has been drawn to the question of the advisibility of retaining either one or both of these vessels and if retained what measures should be adopted to provide for their upkeep.

A sessional paper has been issued inviting the attention of the Harbour Board to the matter. At the invitation of this Committee a meeting of the principal Steamship Agents of the Port was held under the auspices of the Liners Conference to discuss the subject. This resulted in a letter being addressed to the Chairman of the Chamber which has since been forwarded to the Government. A copy will be found in the Appendix. It has been recommended that this subject should form the basis of a resolution for discussion at the Half-Yearly General Meeting in order that the Hon'ble the Mercantile Member will be enabled to gather the general feeling existent regarding the Tugs and so be in a position to deal with the question when the discussion takes place in the Legislative Council.

Trade First Half 1904.

Tea Exports: *Quantity.*—For the first six months output totalled 85,502,920 lbs. or an increase of 7,800,736 lbs. over the same period last year.

Shipments,—(Black and Green) to the United Kingdom amount to 55,681,[illegible]28 lbs and account for about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the increased output—the shipments for the first half of 1903 totalling 53,099,626, lbs.

Direct shipments to Russia almost doubled those of last year—the respective figures being 7,989,633 lbs. and 4,043,407 lbs. These shipments absorbed more than half of the total increased output. Australian shipments show an increase of 2,619,412 lbs. and American of about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million pounds, the Continent shows a slight advance and "other ports" account for $2\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds less than in the first half of 1903.

Quality.—The finest kinds have not been plentiful, nor have the lowest qualities been in large supply, but at the same time teas from medium elevations have, taken as a whole, been disappointing.

Prices.—The average price obtained at the Colombo Sales was

1904	36	cents
1903	37	„

Fine teas have been in good demand, and common teas continued to do well; but medium sorts have met rather poor support. Dust and Fannings have been dealt in freely, but at a somewhat lower range of prices.

Green Teas have, on the whole, shewn good manufacture. Prices for these have during the early part of the period under review advanced, but a decline set in later establishing a distinctly lower level of prices.

Plumbago.—Though our exports of this article have almost equalled those of the previous year for the corresponding period, the past six moths have been marked by an undesirable dullness in practically all markets and more especially in that of our largest buyer, the American. Such a result, however, appears to be due to perfectly natural and fairly obvious causes, and should create no misgivings, any more than the rumoured reports of important deposits of the Mineral in America and indeed also in other parts of the world, but which have floated away into the air and left Ceylon unchallenged in its fortunate monopoly of this product.

As a tonic for this dullness a hopeful feature is to be found in the exceptional manner in which rates have notwithstanding been maintained locally despite the attempt referred to in our last report, on the part of consuming markets to depress prices, and there appears to be every prospect of an active business at remunerative rates during the fall of the year.

The total exports during the period under review amounted to 260,737 cwts. against 264,171 cwts. for the first half of 1903, and the following figures show the respective distributions to the consuming countries:—

	1904.	1903.
Exports to United Kingdom	78,741	47,847
,, United States	97,365	164,487
,, Germany	49,024	32,898
,, Belgium	22,622	11,553
,, Other Countries	12,985	7,386
Total for ½ year ending 30th June, cwts.	260,737	264,171

Products of the Coconut Palm shew the undernoted exports during the first half of the year as compared with those in the corresponding period of 1903, viz : –

		1904.	1903.
		January-June.	January-June..
Coconut Oil...	...	173,238 cwts.	307,468 cwts.
Copperah ...	...	249,334 cwts.	241,548 cwts.
Desiccated Coconut	...	7,175,830 lbs.	9,124,334 lbs.
Poonac ...	...	84,614 cwts.	138,450 cwts.
Coconuts ...	...	6,608,333 nuts.	5,786,434 nuts.

Coconut Oil.—The exports of this article for the six months ending 30th June have been on a comparatively limited scale, and not very much more than one half of the quantity shipped in the corresponding period of 1903, while the exports of **Poonac** have necessarily been on a correspondingly restricted scale. Prices of Coconut Oil have been subject to a good deal of fluctuation during

the period under review. The market opened in January at Rs.320 per ton and closed at the end of June at Rs. 350·00, the highest figure touched in the interval being Rs. 380·00 per ton in March.

Copperah has not been the unprecedentedly heavy Crop that it was in the first six months of 1903, but on the other hand it cannot be described as a short Crop. The cause of the small shipments of Coconut Oil is the continued strong demand for Copperah for export to the Continent of Europe, as evidenced by the fact that a larger export of Copperah has taken place in the first six months of 1904 with a moderate Crop than in the same period of 1903 when the Crop was abnormally heavy. The decided advantage in Freight which Copperah was obtaining as compared with Coconut Oil, drawn attention to in the Report of 31st December, 1903, has not continued in the opening months of 1904, but there is still some advantage in favour of Copperah, and this, combined with the fact that Copperah as a raw product enters most Continental Ports free, while the manufactured article, Coconut Oil, has to pay duty, tends to continue to throw the business of Oil making into Foreign hands and to deprive the Island of this important manufacture. The special feature of the six months has been the continued comparatively low prices for Oil and the relatively higher prices for Copperah, the result of the strong demand for Copperah for export.

Desiccated Coconut.—In the export of this produce to 30th June a shortage of nearly two million pounds is noticeable on the figures of the corresponding period last year, whilst compared with the six months ending last December the falling off is considerably over a million pounds.

The cause of this continued shrinkage may be attributed, in the main, to shorter coconut crops, combined with the strong shipping demand for copperah above referred to.

Coconuts.—Shipments are a million nuts less than they were during July/December, but in excess to about the same extent over the exports for the first half of last year.

Cinnamon.—During the first half of the period under review prices declined gradually from 46 cents to 41½ cents per lb. for

"Ordinary Assortment," recovering during April and May until 45 cents were reached. June saw a further downward tendency when transactions were recorded at 40½ cts.

The extreme indifference of European Buyers to operate even at the latter figure, in view of the near approach of the new season's crop, has acted depressingly on the Trade.

Continuous heavy rain throughout June has seriously interfered with harvesting and quilling, many of the producing districts being flooded, and consequently arrivals which ought to have been plentiful during that month were much restricted. It is reported that the May to September crop is likely to be short.

Chips have met with little attention and the advent of large supplies early in the season due to a heavy yield of Coarse Bark render prospects gloomy unless a substantial rise should take place in the price for quills.

Compared with the same period 1903, exports during the 6 months under review have kept fairly steady.

	1904		1903
Quills	960,423 lbs.	against	968,326 lbs.
Chips	1,088,217 „	„	1,307,148 „

The falling off in the export of Chips is due to the effect of the drought the latter part of 1902, which caused a greater output of bark unfit for quilling purposes in 1903.

Cocoa.—During the six months under review there has been a noticeable increase in the output of this product, 49,456 cwts. having been exported against 34,546 cwts. for the same period in 1903, or an increase of 45 %. In spite of this, values have been fairly well maintained, and there has been very little variation in the market rate. It will be noticed that out of the total quantity exported, over a third has been sent to countries other than the United Kingdom.

Cardamoms.—In this product also a large increase in production has taken place, the exports during the six months having been 558,839 lbs. against 431,974 lbs. in 1903. In looking at the distribution the significant fact is revealed that whereas during the six

months ended June 30th, 1903, 66 % of the exports went to the United Kingdom, in 1904 this has fallen to 50 % and it is evident that in this, as in other Ceylon products, London is gradually ceasing to be the distributing centre, and that Colombo is replacing it. Prices during the six months have, in consequence of this overproduction, continued to fall, and now stand at a rate at which the industry can hardly be said to be remunerative. Cardamoms being only used for special purposes, and not forming an article of universal consumption, as in the case of Tea, it is open to doubt whether the recently proposed cess, for advertising purposes, is likely to achieve much good, and it is to be feared that the outlook for this production is not a very hopeful one. During the past few months a demand has arisen for Green Cardamoms, *i.e.*, merely dried and unbleached, and these have found buyers at higher rates than those ruling for the cured variety. This demand has been entirely for India, and is not likely to continue to such an extent when the crop there becomes available.

Citronella Oil.—Prices have gradually declined in value during the period under review, probably due to the increase in exports.

From 70 cents, with which the year opened, February and March established a fall of about 4 cents followed by a further drop in May of 6 cents, June rates closing at about 56 cents per lb.

Total Exports show an increase of about 176,000 lbs. as compared with the corresponding period in 1903, which is chiefly noticeable in those to the United Kingdom and Australia while on the other hand exports to Germany and China show a falling off.

The quality of exports has considerably improved and the heavy adulteration which excited the attention of the trade during the same period last year has partly ceased. Unless however buyers continue to exercise caution on their purchases the advantage gained in this direction will be lost.

Rubber.—This product is beginning to be an item of considerable interest in our tables of Export. It first appeared last year when the total exports for 1903 came to 41,798 lbs. To 30th June, this year, the exports amount to 37,896 lbs., and a steady increase

in the export of this article in the future may now be looked for, having in view the large extensions of this cultivation now being made especially in Kalutara and the other low-country districts of the island.

The undermentioned comparative statement of Shipments will be found of interest :—

		1904.	1903.	1902.
Black Tea	... lbs.	82,776,666	74,026,929	78,291,151
Green Tea	... ,,	2,726,254	3.675,255	1,414,391
Coffee	... cwts.	6,103	6,046	5,912
Cocoa	... ,,	49,456	34,546	26,090
Cardamoms	... lbs.	558,839	431,974	314,138
Cinnamon Bales	... ,,	960,423	968,326	749,059
Cinnamon Chips	... ,,	1,088,217	1,307,148	742,618
Coconuts	... nuts.	6,608,333	5,786,434	7,542,186
Desiccated Coconut	lbs.	7,175,830	9,124,334	5,565,364
Coconut Poonac	... cwts.	84,614	138,450	67,505
Copperah	... ,,	249,334	241,548	115,119
Coconut Oil	... ,,	173,238	307,468	168,148
Citronella Oil	... lbs.	706,856	530,481	692,381
Cinchona	... ,,	92,401	117,574	332,320
Plumbago	... cwts	260,737	264,171	264,804

Imports—Cottons.—At the end of last year the price of Mid. stood at 7·24d. The reports issued by the American Agricultural Bureau Department on this season's crop are of a favourable tenour that for June giving the condition of the new crop as 83 against 74·1 last year, the acreage under cultivation being the largest on record The price of the raw material in consequence has fallen considerably and on the 30th June this year it stood at 6·26d., after having touched 8·38d in April last. It is to be hoped the efforts of the British Cotton Growing Association will be rewarded with success to obviate the disastrous results to legitimate trade consequent on the speculative manipulation so freely indulged in in recent times in the United States of America.

Trade in Cloth has been very difficult and orders have been purely of a hand-to-mouth description, the business being limited to urgent requirements, while prices generally in no way responded to the increased cost of production.

The exports from the U. K. to Ceylon for the 5 months ending May compare as follows with the same period, in 1903.

		Yards.	
Unbleached	Decrease, 1904,	2,374,000	
Dyed	,,	168,000	
Printed	,,	711,700	
Bleached			Increase, 1904, 526,600
		3,253,700	
		526,600	
	Decrease in 1904.	2,727,100	yards.

Rice.—The total importation for the 6 months ending 30th June was 1,463,294 bags as against 1,478,715 bags for the corresponding period, 1903.

Prices have been steady and favourable for buyers ranging from Rs. 2·95 to Rs. 3 30 per bushel for Soolai as against Rs. 3·15 to Rs. 3·55 during the same period in 1903. The quality generally showed an improvement, a better class of Soolai than usual being obtainable.

Of the total imports 18 % only was shipped from South India and the quality was not good whilst the price was high.

Coal. Imports	1904		1903	
From United Kingdom	184,532	tons.	159,889	tons.
,, India	140,055	,,	144,195	,,
,, Other Countries	13,613	,,	22,040	,,
Total...	338,201	tons	326,124	tons

Thus Imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of 24,643 tons during the six months under review as compared with the same period last year while Indian and other descriptions show a

decrease of 4,140 tons and 8,427 tons respectively. The f. o. b. price of Cardiff has ruled about s6/6d. per ton higher than in 1903. Indian prices are about the same.

Freights.—Rates of freight to United Kingdom and the Continent have ruled steady during the past six months at 27/6 to 30/- for Tea, 25/- for coconut oil and 20/- for general produce to United Kingdom and 25/- for Tea and 20/- for general produce to the Continent.

SHIPPING.

Year.		Vessels.	Tons.
1903.	*Arrivals* in Colombo ...	1,562	3,099,778
	„ „ other Ports ...	609	230,471
	Total...	2,171	3,330,249
	Departures from Colombo ...	1,557	3,087,278
	„ „ other Ports ...	625	215,749
	Total...	2,182	3,303,027
1904.	*Arrivals* in Colombo ...	1,558	3,330,440
	„ „ other Ports ...	779	336,313
	Total...	2,337	3,666,753
	Departures from Colombo ...	1,537	3,295,983
	„ „ other Ports ...	822	329,879
	Total...	2,359	3,625,862

The above figures which include steamers calling for Coal only show an increase in the tonnage visiting the Port for the first six months of the year as compared with the corresponding period in 1903.

Exchange.—During the first two months of the year exchange was higher than has been experienced for some time, viz:—1/4 $\frac{5}{32}$ to

1/4 $\frac{3}{16}$ Bank demand and 1/4 $\frac{9}{16}$ to 1/4 $\frac{5}{8}$ six months' sight credit bills. Since then rates gradually dropped to 1/4 Bank demand and 1/4 $\frac{11}{32}$ six months' sight credit bills, which were the quotations on 30th June. The average rates during the six months under review were 1/4 $\frac{3}{32}$ for demand Bank drafts, 1/4 $\frac{15}{32}$ six months' sight buying and 1/4 $\frac{11}{32}$ three months' sight buying. The London discount rates have been fairly easy the average rate for six months' sight bills being 2, 3/4%

Money locally has been in good demand at rates ranging from 9 to 12% per annum for Natives, and lower rates for European firms.

Account.—The accounts of the Chamber duly audited are laid on the table.

Membership.—The number of members of this Chamber is 77, same as in the previous Half-Year.

Business.

1. To receive Report and Accounts for the Half-Year ended 30th June, 1904.

2. **Chairman**:—To appoint a Chairman in the place of the Hon'ble Mr. W. H. Figg whose term of office has expired.

3. **Committee**:—To elect two Members of Committee in place of Messrs. G. Shaw Taylor and W. Shakspeare who retire by rotation.

4. **Alteration in Tonnage Scale**:—To confirm the alteration made by the Committee in the Tonnage Scale for Copperah in Bags by steamer, from 12 cwts. net shipped to 12 cwts. net delivered as from 1st August, 1904.

5. **Government harbour Tugs**:—Resolution to be proposed by Sir William Mitchell, and seconded by Mr. W. Shakspeare:—

"That this Chamber disapproves of the use of Tugs being made compulsory to shipping entering or leaving the port of Colombo.

"That it supports the protest of the shipping community against the cost of upkeep, &c., of Tugs being borne by the shipping, and that it concurs in their opinion that, in the event of a suitable tug being provided as part of the equipment of the port, the general cost of maintenance should be defrayed out of fees levied for its use, and any necessary balance out of Harbour Revenue."

6. **Conference of Indian and Ceylon Chambers of Commerce.**—To appoint one or two delegates to represent this Chamber at the Conference to be held at Calcutta the first week in January 1905.

7. **Thirty Committee.**—To elect Members to serve on the Thirty Committee.

MINUTES OF MEETING.

MINUTES OF THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING OF THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HELD ON TUESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1904, AT 3 P. M.

Present:—The Hon. Mr. W. H. Figg (*Chairman*), Sir W. W. Mitchell, Messrs. J. G. Wardrop, G. B. Leechman, R. Davidson, R. F. S. Hardie, F. C. Allen, G. Shaw Taylor, A. C. Rainnie, A. Schulze, J. C. Hall, W. Shakspeare, C. E. H. Symons, J. A. Ridge, H. Freudenberg, S. P. Jeffery, C. W. Horsfall, A. P. Waldock, Geo. Croll, H. Tarrant, W. P. Ampenoff, P. D. Khan, A. W. Wiliis, S. H. Dyer, W. J. Williams, J. G. Melrose, A. H. Barber, C. W. Booty and F. M. Simpson (Secretary.)

After the usual notice convening the meeting had been read by the Secretary the minutes of the last General meeting held on 1st September, 1903, were taken as read and confirmed.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH ON THE REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN : I now rise, gentlemen, to move the adoption of the report of your Committee, which has been in your hands for the last few days, and to submit the accounts for the half-year ending the 31st December last. Those who have studied the report will have seen that your Committee have been occupied with various subjects of varying interest, and it is hoped that the work which has been done—although very important measures have not, perhaps, occupied the attention of your Committee—will further the interests of our community. Perhaps

THE PRINCIPAL EVENT

which occurred in the half-year under review is one that does not only touch the mercantile community, but which affects all communities alike. I refer to the departure of our late Governor, Sir West Ridgeway, and the arrival of Sir Henry Blake. The various events which took place in November last, culminating in that

meeting at the Grand Oriental Hotel on the night of the 10th November, when His Excellency did us the honour of dining with us, I am sure is fresh in your memory, and we are very glad indeed we had the opportunity of wishing "God-speed" to a Governor who had been good to us. He lent a ready ear to us when we had to approach him on various subjects of interest to our community. I say it was an honour to us to have been able to entertain him on that occasion; and I think I am only speaking for you when I say that it was with great regret on our part that he left us. In Sir Henry Blake we have a Governor of undoubtely ripe experience. He has been with us too short a time for us to judge as to how he will meet us when opportunities occur; but if the resolution which I have to put before you shortly is carried, and is carried in Kandy, we shall very soon have the opportunity of letting him know our wants and seeing how far he will be ready to meet us. A business which is more closely connected with the mercantile community will be found when you turn to

THE HARBOUR

and the work in connection with it. Year after year, meeting after meeting, we have our wants trotted out. In connection with improvements to the Harbour, there has not been very much done in the last half-year, except, perhaps, to the quay-wall, but from the fact that we have not been pressing Government so closely this last half year, it must not be understood that our wants are all satisfied. In respect of the Government of the harbour your committee thought it well to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the absence of the Master-Attendant for prolonged periods at the Pearl Banks was not in the interests of the port. Nor was it conducive to the good working of the Pilot Service that their head should be away for such long periods. Representations were made to the Government, and it is very pleasing to us to know that we were readily met in this matter and we have now the assurance that the Master-Attendant is no longor to undertake the duties in respect of the Pearl Banks. His time will be devoted entirely to the working of the port, which, I think, is distinctly to our advantage. As regards the working of

The Treasury and the Currency Business,

which was occupying our attention at the last half-yearly meeting as soon as I took over the responsibility of the chair, I was called upon for certain papers in connection with a case which was called "Dissatisfaction with the working of the Colonial Treasury." I was rather surprised to learn that I was expected to hand over letters which were received from the Government, and which had not even been considered by your Committee; when I refused to do so the parties who asked for them felt themselves aggrieved, and they said I was not acting in the interests of the public. I should not have referred to this matter, gentlemen, except to let you know clearly that, in your interests, letters of any importance from the Government, or anyone else, so long as I have your confidence, I must flatly decline to give up to anybody, unless it is considered wise in my own judgment and also in the judgment of the Committee to do so. I refused on that occasion. I was condemned for doing it, and I wish to let it be distinctly understood I shall take the same action again if the necessity occur. Happily, the correspondence is finished. I think all parties are satisfied, and I have nothing to say further on the question. I sincerely hope that the arrangement, which is come to between Government on the one side and the bankers and mercantile community on the other, will work happily in the future. The Currency Commission has finished its deliberations and the report has been issued. No doubt, gentlemen, you are aware that in the Legislative Council, the so-called Gold Ordinance has been amended, and it has been decided to restrict the amount of sovereigns held at one time in the Treasury to £200,000. If it falls below that amount Government is bound to receive more, but it is imperative not to exceed that amount. I do not wish, gentlemen, in the meantime to offer any opinion as to the working of this new arrangement, because I do not think it has been sufficiently long in operation for me to give an opinion on it, and I think the bankers are in agreement with me in thinking that any opinion just at the present moment would be premature (Mr. G. Shaw Taylor: "Hear, hear.)

The Telephone Service

has engaged the attention of your Committee to a great extent during the past half-year. Looking over the correspondence in the previous half-year, and indeed for many years before that, we find that continual efforts have been made to get this service improved and brought well up-to-date, and in keeping with services which exist elsewhere. There can be no question about it that the telephone service in Ceylon is far behind that of other places. Personally, I have no wish to attach blame to any particular party. We all remember in the late war how ready people were to blame individuals, and we were told that if blame was to be attached to anybody it was to be attached not to an individual but to a system. The same thing, I believe, applies in this case. I think the system may be wrong. At any rate, something is wrong. Let us put it on the system and not on the individual. We have made attempts now and again to have the communication improved, and the machines changed in the Fort itself. The Chamber asked that telephonic communication might be established with the harbour and that a day and night service should be incurred—or rather a night service should be added to the day service—and also that the communications should be extended to the Cinnamon Gardens, and outlying portions of the city of Colombo. We have to thank Government for acceding to our request, insomuch as it has been decided to have communication with the harbour, and also a night service; but, gentlemen, I would ask you what is the use of a night service, unless it is extended to our bungalows. We do not sleep in the Fort. We want it outside, in our bungalows, if, necessary, so that we might communicate with the Fort. I am afraid that someone has not grasped the point, nor appreciated the position. It is absolutely necessary that if we are going to be abreast with what obtains in other places, the system must be thoroughly re-organised and worked in a business-like manner. At the present moment it is not worked in a business-like manner. Representations have been made on the subject. Letters have remained un-answered for a week or ten days, and, if a reply is received, it is simply to the effect that "the matter is receiving attention" and

nothing more is heard of it. The system is extremely unsatisfactory, and I think we should all urge on Government the absolute importance of this matter being taken seriously in hand and having it brought up to something which approaches more to present-day requirements. (Hear, hear.) You will find reference made in the report to

The Representative of the Fort Ward.

The Chamber of Commerce, perhaps, may be considered, to some extent, as travelling beyond its province when it concerns itself with Municipal matters; but, gentlemen, it must be remembered that we are resident in the Fort, and, therefore, we have an interest in it. As residents in this city of Colombo we must take an interest in what goes on, and I think recent events and the management of the Municipality have shown us how necessary it is that we should take an interest in its affairs. You will be pleased to hear that one of our community, Mr. Finlay, has undertaken the duties in the place of Mr. Bois, who had to resign; and, in the future, I would ask you to bear in mind, when you are asked for your votes, to see that our interests are properly secured and that the member selected by the Chamber has your support. Another question which was presented to us by the Government was an application from a firm here for permission to

Pack Teas in Bond.

The whole situation practically is explained in the report, and I merely mention it now, gentlemen, to let you know that the Chamber canvassed the opinion of its members in order that they might make a reply which would really represent the feeling of the Chamber, because the Committee did not feel it would be wise, although they had the power, to make a reply to Government without referring to the members of the Chamber. A special appeal was sent out containing a request for an expression of opinion in regard to this question, and the application to Government. We received a very large number of replies, and there is no doubt that the weight of opinion was very much against the application being granted. Consequently, Government were informed that, in the

opinion of this Chamber, the application should not be granted. I think I am right in saying—I am speaking from memory—that there were 29 replies, and of these 25 were against, 2 were neutral and 2 for. It was stated in the report that correspondence is still taking place. That remark refers only to any reply we may get from Government. We have informed the Government of the position of the Chamber, and have not yet received a reply. But I do not want members to think that that remark would imply that the letters written by them were going to be published, because that is not so, as the majority do not wish the letter published. Consequently those wishes will be respected, and I would wish it to be understood, that the letters will not be published. The question of

COALING IN THE PORT

is a very important one, and you will note in the Report that meetings have been held, and steps have been taken to guard the interests of the coal importers. This is a question of more importance to those who import the coal, but still it is a very large, and important branch of the trade of Colombo generally, and I think that the attention of those interested, and of the Chamber, should be more seriously given to a subject of this sort than perhaps has been given in the past. A sub-Committee has been appointed, and will watch these interests carefully.

AS REGARDS POLICE,

I saw some mention made in the local Press the other day that a hundred Sikhs were going to be sent to Colombo to police the Fort Ward. Whether that is true or not I am not in a position to say but if it is true, all will regard it as good news—(hear, hear)—and, if the Governor is making a departure in respect to the re-organisation of the police, and its greater effectiveness in the future than in the past, then I am sure he will meet with your warmest and most cordial thanks. I feel sure that Major de Wilton is very anxious, indeed, to see reform, and anything we can do to support him in his application, or in any way to see that proper steps are taken, I think it is our duty to do. In any case I would now like to record it as our opinion that the traffic of the streets of Colombo

as at present existing is not properly controlled ; that the constables perhaps, are not able to control the traffic. At any rate they have not done so, and the supervision of the constables is certainly not what it should be. If by any means stronger and more able men can be found who will not hesitate to carry out their duties, it will be a move in the right direction, and let us hope that it be extended. It will be absurd for anybody to suppose that the idea is to get that class of men, the Sikhs, to undertake detective work, and that sort of thing, although those who are opposed to them will make that an argument. I understood the Sikhs will only be used in Colombo in the control of traffic, and to see that passengers are not molested as at present. The way traffic is allowed to go about the streets at present, and the way passengers are worried and harried in the streets, with policemen looking on, is a disgrace to a first-class Colony, and anything done to remedy that state of affairs will, I am sure, be welcomed by us. As regards

our Membership,

we have one more to record than at last meeting, I think the membership now is 77 against 76. Financially we are going along slowly, and it is pleasing to note that we have

Reduced our Debt

by a matter of Rs. 9,000, and as we get more money so we shall attempt to wipe off our debts. At the present moment we owe Rs. 95,000. With these few remarks, I beg to propose that the report and accounts be adopted.

Sir W. W. Mitchell's Remarks.

Sir W. W. Mitchell made the following speech :—In rising to second the adoption of the report and accounts, I would wish to make very few remarks. Chamber of Commerce reports are always interesting documents, and the present one shows, as usual, how hardworking Chairman and Committee have given their time and experience in the interests of the Mercantile Community, studying and advising upon the numerous questions that come up affecting these interests, and from the appendix to the report it will be seen how varied were the subjects that occupied their attention. To

one or two of these in the report I will venture briefly to allude first of all, as to the

Telephone Service.

It is gratifying to find that H. E. the Governor has sanctioned the provision of a harbour Telephone Service and a night and Sunday working, but we should not rest until we have the service extended to private residences. We are far behind other places in the East in regard to this. In Singapore, Hong-Kong, and Shanghai, all residences of any consequence are in communication. In Japan they have public automatic telephones in the street; we don't ask for this, but the boon and convenience of the telephone between bungalows and places of business and hotels in the Fort or elsewhere, we ought not to be longer without. It is for the authorities to say what the service would cost, and further to ascertain how many would be subscribers, naming what the subscription would be. The next subject I would say a word about is the

Government Harbour Tugs.

It has often been a matter of surprise to me that no one seems to know who is to blame for getting out such unsuitable vessels. Some one must be to blame for sending specifications for vessels so different to what was required. Surely specifications must have been obtained from home before such boats were ordered, and, if so they might have been submitted to the Harbour Board if they were not. Something appeared in the papers the other day, to the effect that they were to be taken over by the military authorities to apprise these gentlemen when an enemy came in sight, but it is now said this is not the case, and I suppose it has been a case of leg-pulling, and we remain with the white elephants on hand. Why not try and sell them to Japan or Russia? They would probably be appreciated in the sea of Japan just now. All mistakes of the kind and many more would have been avoided had a Port Trust been formed long ago, as urged over and over again by members of this Chamber.

Bonus on Green Tea.

I think your Committee are right in holding the opinion that support should not be withdrawn until it is proved beyond doubt that Ceylon green teas are going into consumption in America and Canada on their own merits. This they are not doing. The markets have been overfed by consignments beyond their requirements—the result is buyers in consuming markets are having their own prices, and there are but few buyers of them here. A good many makers of green tea are reverting to black, an unfortunate thing for the makers of black tea, but which I think they fail sufficiently to realise. The Chamber is much indebted to our Chairman for all he has done in connection with the

St. Louis Exhibition,

and the efforts of our Commissioner, Mr. Stanley Bois, can hardly fail to give a stimulus to our trade, especially in the Far West. There is room for anxiety still regarding the roughness of the sea in front of the

New Coaling Ground.

It will be unfortunate if, after completion, it is found that work is impeded by the condition of the sea. I think it is a pity Government have not, during the N.-E. monsoon, tried the effect of a temporary floating breakwater in front of where the jetties are being erected. Whilst on the subject of matters connected with the harbour, I would like to ask if anything has been heard from the Government with reference to the proposed inland wet dock at Mutwal. I hope the Colony will not be committed to any scheme without this Chamber being first placed in possession of all details. One of the great advantages of our present harbour is the facility—always one of the first importance at a port of call—with which steamers can come in and go out at all hours, night or day, and any extension of the harbour ought to possess equal facilities in this respect. With regard to the

Trade during 1903,

most articles have shewn a satisfactory expansion, and this is very marked in the products of the coconut palm. The low freight of

15s. per 20 cwts. for freight of copra to Odessa has undoubtedly given an impetus to the export in that direction. Such a rate of freight I regard as below a living wage, and it is probably at an end ; but, in the interests of oil-makers, it would be sounder policy to seek to raise this freight than to lower the freight on coconut oil, which at 25s. per 14 cwts. less 10 per cent., cannot be said to be excessive. Any important reduction of oil freight would mean scarcity of tonnage, and this would contribute to make business difficult to put through. Under the head of cinnamon I see it is stated that "a combination of circumstances, entirely of local creation, caused prices to advance rapidly during October and November." I hardly think this is quite correct. The fact is, there was a very great falling off in the supplies of cassia from China. Concurrently with this, many bear sales of cinnamon were made in Europe, and the rush to cover this accounted for the rise. If there was less "bearing" of the market for our produce generally, we should see fewer of the violent fluctuations in values which nowadays render business so difficult. I would conclude by congratulating the Chamber on the substantial balance at the credit of revenue account, and wishing them continued prosperity.

Mr. G. B. Leechman supported the report. In regard to the telephone service, he said Sir William Mitchell had mentioned Singapore, China, and Japan. To complete the list, he (the speaker) would mention Penang, where every bungalow which lay outside the town was placed on the telephone exchange. The list of people who were on the telephone covered pages, and he mentioned how, sitting in a bungalow, he was able to communicate with friends by telephone many miles away. He was very glad this matter had been taken up and that the Governor had responded to their application. The defects mentioned by the Chairman would, he thought, be overcome, and he hoped before long they would be abreast of Hong-Kong, and even abreast of the Federated Malay States.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The War-Tax on Tea.

The Chairman: I will now, gentlemen, ask your permission to bring up an important matter which I cannot do without your sanction. It is in connection with the British Import Duty on tea. My request is that you will allow me to ask the meeting to consent to a deputation of merchants of this Chamber going jointly with representatives of the Planters' Association to ask His Excellency the Governor to telegraph our representations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to bring before the Chancellor of the Exchequer the desirability of taking 2d. off the duty on tea, which was imposed at the time of the South African war. In asking this, gentlemen, I would not have it to be confused for a moment with the controversy in respect to the Fiscal Policy. We here have not studied that question sufficiently to offer an opinion. I am speaking for myself. Other gentlemen may have done so, but I ask for this remission of 2d. a lb. which was imposed at the time of the war, because we feel it only right and equitable that it should be taken off now the war is over. There has been a reduction in the consumption of British-grown tea since the extra duty was imposed, and, therefore, we assume that, with the duty taken off, the consumption would increase. Further, it was promised at the time the tax was imposed, that it would be taken off as soon as possible—presumably as soon as the war was at an end. Happily, the war is over, and I think the only way to get that promise fulfilled is to approach the Secretary of State for the Colonies and ask him to do all he can to get the tax remitted. That is solely the ground on which I would ask for this. I have consulted those in Kandy, who would probably take charge of a similar resolution, and they are perfectly in accord with our object. If we have joint representation to urge our scheme before H. E. the Governor, I think we shall have a very good chance of inducing him to take our view, and I think the Secretary of State will do all he possibly can to place our demand in a proper light. India has done the same, the Ceylon Association in London has urged the question, and we must not be behindhand in fighting this battle. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. G. B. Leechman supported. The people at home, he said, were certainly looking forward to the duty on sugar being removed, and tea and sugar went together; and he had no doubt those connected with sugar would take care of their own interests; but the duty on tea ought to be removed entirely on its own merits. He felt sure a joint representation would obtain a very favourable reception from the Governor and earnestly hoped their combined efforts would effect the desired remission of taxation.

Mr. Wardrop had much pleasure in supporting Mr. Figg's motion. He thought that the course suggested by the Chairman was quite the best under the circumstances, and he hoped the meeting would adopt it unanimously.

Sir William Mitchell also supported the motion. He was afraid that, possibly, the Chamber was not going to take any action and it would then have been strange, indeed, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer had remitted the tax, for he would have said, "Well, they don't seem to care about it one way or the other." With regard to getting the Governor to telegraph to England for them, he would have a precedent for this, because, about two years ago, Sir West Ridgeway took a similar step; and, although they were then not so successful, he hoped on this occasion they would be more so. With regard to Mr. Leechman's remark on sugar, he (Sir William) had read in one of the home papers that the Glasgow sugar merchants, having asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer why the tax on sugar, which was a war tax, should not now be removed, had received the following reply from Mr. Austen Chamberlain through his Secretary:—

"With reference to the argument that the sugar duty was imposed to provide "war funds," I am to point out that this is a misapprehension, for Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, in opening his Budget on April 18th, 1901, when this tax was imposed, defended the duty on the express ground that the additional revenue was required to provide for the growth in the ordinary expenditure of the country as opposed to extraordinary or war expenditure."

Be that as it might, the sugar people might have made a mistake, but he did not think Ceylon would make a mistake. The extra 2d. a lb. was most distinctly a war tax, and as the application had been refused in the case of sugar on the ground that it was not a war-tax, in their case, as it was a war-tax, there was every reason why it should be removed. (Hear, hear.)

The following gentlemen were appointed to form the deputation from the Chamber :—Sir W. W. Mitchell, Mr. G. B. Leechman, Mr. J. G. Wardrop, and the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN announced his intention of wiring to this effect to Kandy, so that the planters might be able to take action at their annual meeting.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was to appoint a vice-chairman. Mr. Davidson was their present vice-chairman, and he had acted for the last six months, having been appointed in place of Mr. Suhren, when the latter left for home. He would ask the meeting to elect Mr. Davidson for another year. (Applause.) He had been of very great assistance to him, and, personally, he would be very glad if they would confirm what he suggested.

Mr. R. Davidson was then unanimously re-elected vice-chairman.

Messrs. F. C. Allen and A. C. Rainnie were re-elected Members of Committee.

THE SECRETARY.

Mr. F. M. Simpson was confirmed in his appointment as Secretary of the Chamber.

THE "THIRTY COMMITTEE."

The following were appointed to serve on the "Thirty Committee" for the current year :— Messrs F. M. Mackwood, G. H. Alston. R. Davidson, W. Shakspeare, and Geo. Croll.

BUBBISHY TEAS.

Sir WILLIAM MITCHELL proposed the resolution in this connection. He recapitulated what he said at the Tea Traders'

meeting with regard to the effect which the sale of rubbishy teas might have on the good name of Ceylon tea, and repeated, in slightly different terms, the speech which was fully reported in the *Times of Ceylon* on Saturday, 13th February.

Mr. Davidson seconded the motion. This matter of rubbishy tea had been constantly in the minds of everybody interested in the good name of Ceylon tea. Several suggestions had been brought forward from time to time; but none seemed practicable. He thought that they should support the Committee of the Tea Traders' Association, for their recommendations went right to the root of the matter, and would put it beyond the power of anyone to sell or export teas below a fair merchantable standard, unless, of course, such tea had been dealt with chemically. Their gratitude was due to the Committee of the Tea Traders' Association for the very thorough and exhaustive manner in which they had gone into this question.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

This concluded the business.

CE.

Dr. *Cr.*

	OME		Rs.	Cts.
To Building Accoun				
Interest to 30th Ju	y to June, 1904	Rs. 1,500·00		
6 % Debenture	anuary to June, 1904	,, 5,231 50		
6 % Loans	,, ,,	,, 6,058·20		
7 % Loans			12,789	70
Less Bank Inte				
Assessment Ta				
Fire Insurance				
Rent of Chamb				
Bad bebts writ				
,, **Prices Current A**				
Printing, etc.	.. ..		1,485	78
,, **News Room Acc**				
Subscriptions t	... .		5	00
,, **Charges Account**				
Contribution t	.. ..	Rs. 75·00		
Half-Yearly R	... ...	,, 21·00		
Telegrams, Pos	... .	,, 5·00		
Stationery, Adv			101	00
Sub. to Teleph				
Remuneration				
Messrs. F. J. &				
Rent of Meter				
Auditor's Fee				
.. **Flag Staff Accou**				
Stationery and	.. ..		312	50
.. **Office Expenses**				
Rent for 6 mon	... .		3,825	00
Salaries of Sec				
Electric Curren				
.. **Surplus Revenue**				
			18,518	98

Audited and foun

(Signed)

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON.

Hon Treasurer.

THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(INCORPORATED.)

REVENUE ACCOUNT

Dr. — ***For the Half-Year ending 30th June, 1904.*** — *Cr.*

Expenditure.				Rs.	Cts.
To Building Account—					
Interest to 30th June, 1904 :—					
6 % Debentures	Rs. 75,000·00	Rs. [illegible],2[illegible]0·00			
6 % Loans	„ 15,000·00	„ 450·00			
7 % Loans	„ 5,000·00	„ 175·00			
		Rs. 2,875·00			
Less Bank Interest		„ 22·80			
			Rs. 2,852·20		
Assessment Tax ...			„ 767·24		
Fire Insurance			„ 153·12		
Rent of Chamber encroachment for Half-Year			„ 7·20		
Bad bebts written off			„ 50·00		
				3,829	76
„ **Prices Current Account—**					
Printing, etc.				1,119	00
„ **News Room Account—**					
Subscriptions to local papers and Periodicals				233	57
„ **Charges Account—**					
Contribution to Ceylon Ass'tn. in London for ½ year			Rs. 375·00		
Half-Yearly Reports			„ 274·50		
Telegrams, Postages, etc. ...			„ 201·09		
Stationery, Advertising, Printing, etc.			„ 683·33		
Sub. to Telephone & for Abbreviated telegraphic Address			„ 67·50		
Remuneration to Customs Statistical Department			„ 50·00		
Messrs. F. J. & G. de Saram's Fee for legal advice			„ 42·00		
Rent of Meter and consumption of water Rs. 42·47 } Auditor's Fee Rs. 50, and Sundry payments „ 20·00 }			„ 112·47		
				1,805	89
„ **Flag Staff Account—**					
Stationery and Wages of Peons				334	00
„ **Office Expenses Account—**					
Rent for 6 months			Rs. 1,500·00		
Salaries of Secretary and Staff for 6 months			„ 4,287·00		
Electric Current for 6 months ...			„ 178·29		
				5,965	29
„ **Surplus Revenue Balances** (Amount transferred) ...				5,231	47
			Rs. ...	18,518	98

Income		Rs.	Cts.
By Building Account—			
Rent from Chamber, January to June, 1904	Rs. 1,500·00		
„ „ Sundry Offices, January to June, 1904	„ 5,231 50		
„ „ Tea Sales Room „ „	„ 6,058·20		
		12,789	70
„ **Prices Current Account—**			
Subscriptions		1,485	78
„ **News Room Account**			
Sundry Sales		5	00
„ **Charges Account—**			
Entrance Fee ...	Rs. 75·00		
Survey Fees ...	„ 21·00		
Transfer Fees	„ 5·00		
		101	00
„ **Flag Staff Account—**			
Subscriptions for Half-year ...		312	50
„ **Members' Subscriptions—**			
Subscriptions for Half-year		3,825	00
		18,518	98

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) J. D. FORBES,

Incorporated Accountant,

Auditor.

E & O. E.

Colombo, 1st August, 1904.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,

Hon Treasurer.

Dr.

CAPI

To Debenture and Loan

6 % Debentures

6 % Loans ...

7 % ,, ...

,, **Sundry Liabilities**–

Interest to 30th Jun

,, ,, ,

,, ,, ,

Mr. Wm. Martin Lea

Printing Prices Curr

Messrs. Bousted Bro

Auditor's Fee

Subscriptions receiv

Flag Staff Head Sig

Rent of Chamber en

Local Papers

,, **Surplus Revenue**

As at 31st Decembe

Surplus as per Reve

Audited and found

(Signed) J.

Cr.

ASSETS.		Rs.	Cts.
... ...		119,000	00
s	... Rs. 200·00		
...	... ,, 437·60		
	... ,, 736·00		
ptions ...	... ,, 942·54		
..	,, 10·00		
&c. ...	... ,, 259·06	2,585	20
... ...		3,135	22
...	Rs. 6,071·60		
...	,, 7·86	6,079	46
	Rs. ...	130,799	88

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON.

Hon. Treasurer.

THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(INCORPORATED.)

BALANCE SHEET

Dr. *For the Half-Year ending 30th June, 1904.* **Cr.**

Capital and Liabilities.		Rs.	Cts.
To Debenture and Loan Account—			
6 % Debentures	Rs. 75,000·00		
6 % Loans	,, 15,000·00		
7 % ,, ...	,, 5,000·00	95,000	00
,, **Sundry Liabilities**—			
Interest to 30th June on 6 % Debentures	Rs. 2,250·00		
,, ,, ,, 6 % Loans ...	,, 450·00		
,, ,, ,, 7 % ,, ...	,, 175·00		
Mr. Wm. Martin Leake, Ceylon Association in London	,, 343 40		
Printing Prices Current	,, 215·00		
Messrs. Bousted Bros. Electric Current	,, 22·90		
Auditor's Fee	,, 50·00		
Subscriptions received in advance	,, 488·62		
Flag Staff Head Signal man	,, 25 00		
Rent of Chamber encroachment ...	,, 7·20		
Local Papers	,, 9·00	4,036	12
,, **Surplus Revenue Balances**—			
As at 31st December, 1903	Rs. 26,532·29		
Surplus as per Revenue account at 30th June, 1904 ...	,, 5,231·47	31,763	76
	Rs.	130,799	88

Property and Assets.		Rs.	Cts.
By Property and Land Account—			
As at 30th June, 1904		119,000	00
,, **Debts due to the Chamber**—			
Outstanding Members Subscriptions ...	Rs. 200·00		
,, Tea Sales Room Rents	,, 437·60		
,, Office Rents	.. 736·00		
,, Prices Current Subscriptions	,, 942·54		
,, Signal Service	,, 10·00		
Amount paid in advance for Books, &c.	,, 259·06	2,585	20
,, **Furniture Account**		3,135	22
,, **Cash Account**—			
Bank of Madras	Rs. 6,071·60		
Petty Cash	,, 7·86	6,079	46
	Rs. ...	130,799	88

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) J. D. FORBES,

Incorporated Accountant,

Auditor.

E. & O. E.

Colombo, 1st August, 1904.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON.

Hon. Treasurer.

APPENDIX.

OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF TEA CROP FOR 1904.

Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy, 12th January, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 11th instant, and with reference thereto now annex hereto for your information, guidance and in reply copy of the Minute and Resolution passed on the subject at the Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held on Friday, the 8th instant.

(*Minute and Resolution referred to.*)

Official Estimate of Tea Crop, 1904.—Read the following report:--"Your Committee estimates the tea crop for export during the year 1904, at 155,000,000 lbs. The total acreage in tea is 380,000 of which 10,000 acres are not yet in bearing." As regards the distribution of crop the following is submitted:—

		lbs.			lbs.
Russia	...	14,500,000	Africa	...	1,000,000
Europe	...	2,000,000	America	...	15,000,000
India	...	500,000	United Kingdom		98,000,000
Australia	...	21,000,000	Far East	...	3,000,000

Resolved:—"That the report be, and the same hereby is, adopted."

The Secretery,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. PHILIP,
Secretary.

CEYLON IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.

Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy, 15th January, 1904.

Dear Sir,

At the request of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, I write to invite attention to the annexed copy of Minute and Resolution passed at a recent Meeting on the subject of Ceylon Import Duty on Tea, which explains itself.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. PHILIP,
Secretary.

(Minute and Resolution referred to.)

Read letter from Government, forwarding by the desire of His Excellency the Lieut-Governor, for the views of the Planters' Association copy of a letter received from Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Co. together with a copy of an extract from a report thereon by the Principal Collector of Customs, adding that Sir West Ridgeway was of the opinion that the proposal for blending tea in Colombo, made by Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Co., deserves careful consideration.

Resolved:—" That before further considering the question, the Committee would ask Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Co. to submit arguments conclusively showing that the desired action would be conducive to the interests of Ceylon Producers, and that the views of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce be also invited."

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 19th January, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge recipt of your letter of 15th instant conveying copy of a resolution passed at a recent meeting of your Committee with reference to Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.

I am to inform you that this matter is now having the attention of my Committee and I shall communicate with you further on the subject.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.
Colombo, 26th January, 1904,

SIR,

In further reply to your letter of 27th November last, enclosing copy of an application from Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Co., to be allowed to import free of duty Indian and other growths of Tea to be blended in a Warehouse of their own under Customs supervision, I have now the honour to inform you that the large majority of opinions which my Committee have, with much care, obtained from those members of the Chamber principally interested in the question, is against the granting of the concession asked for.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 26th January, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

Adverting to my letter of 19th instant, I am now directed to enclose for your information copy of a letter addressed by this Chamber to Government in answer to the opinion asked for on Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Co.'s application to be allowed to import free of duty Indian and other growths of Tea for blending purposes.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy, 27th January, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 26th instant, with enclosure in reference to the above-mentioned subject, which will be duly submitted to the Committee at next meeting.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. PHILIP,
Secretary.

Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy, 28th January, 1904.

Dear Sir,

Adverting to my acknowledgment of the 27 January, 1904, of your letter of the 26th instant, with enclosure, I write to add that the Committee would be glad to be favoured for information and guidance with the reasons of the Chamber against granting the concession asked for by Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Co.

Thanking you in anticipation,

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. PHILIP,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 29th January, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letters of 27th & 28th instant, and to inform you that the letter, embodying the opinions of Members on which my Committee based their reply to Government with reference to Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Company's application, shall be forwarded to your Committee for their information

as soon as same are received back from Government to whom they have been sent.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

No. 01845

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 3rd February, 1904.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th January, 1904, intimating that a large majority of the members of the Chamber of Commerce is against the granting of the concession asked for by Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Co., to be allowed to import free of duty Indian and other growths of Tea, to be blended in a Warehouse of their own under Customs Supervision

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 23rd February, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

Adverting to my letter of 29th ultimo, I now beg to enclose for the information of your Committee and return the letters embodying the opinions of Members of this Chamber on which my Committee based their reply to Government with reference to Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Company's application.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy, 16th March, 1904.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 23rd February, 1904, having been duly submitted to the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon at a recent meeting, I now return as requested under separate cover, the letters embodying the opinions of the Members of the Chamber on which the Committee based their reply to Government with reference to Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Co's application.

Requesting an acknowledgment,

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. PHILIP,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

BRITISH IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 16th February, 1904.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the resolution proposed at the Half-yearly General Meeting of the Chamber held to-day, regarding British Import Duty on Tea, I have been directed to telegraph you as follows:—
"Resolution approving Joint Deputation Chamber of Commerce
"and Planters' Association to wait on His Excellency the Governor
"to urge remission of two pence per lb. Duty on Tea imported into
"Great Britain carried unanimously writing," which I now confirm.

I am further directed to inform you that the members selected to form the Deputation on behalf of this Chamber are:—Sir W. W. Mitchell, the Hon. Mr. W. H. Figg, G. B. Leechman, Esq., and J. G. Wardrop, Esq.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

Planters' Association of Ceylon.
Kandy, 19th February, 1904.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 16th instant, I write to say that it was duly laid before the Committee of the Planters' Association at a meeting held on the 17th instant, when it was resolved to adopt the same and to bring it before the General Meeting in the afternoon in the form of the Resolution as follows :—" That this Association approves of a joint Deputation of the Planters' Association and the Chamber of Commerce, and that a Sub-Committee be appointed to join with the Sub-Committee from the Chamber of Commerce to approach His Excellency the Governor to urge remission of two-pence per lb. Duty on Tea imported into Great Britain."

I now confirm my telegrams to Hon'ble Mr. Figg and herein notify for the information of the gentlemen, who form the deputation, on behalf of the Chamber that His Excellency has been pleased to intimate that he will receive the Deputation mentioned at Queen's House, Colombo, on Monday, the 22nd February. The hour fixed will be notified to me later and I will let you know as soon as possible so that Members can kindly ascertain in Colombo from you when to attend on Monday at Queen's House in case there should not be time to advise direct further.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. PHILIP,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 22nd February, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 19th instant, contents of which have been duly noted. I have also to thank you for your telegram of yesterday's date, advising His Excellency the Governor would receive the Deputation at 2-30 p.m. to-day, at Queen's House.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 21st April, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I beg to confirm telegram despatched to you yesterday by the Chairman of this Chamber embodying telegram it was suggested should be despatched to the Secretary of State relative to the imposition of further two-pence per lb. Duty on Tea, and am directed to thank you for your reply agreeing to same on behalf of the Planters' Association.

It has been deemed advisiable to slightly alter the wording of the message and I now enclose a copy of same, which has been forwarded today to His Excellency the Governor for transmission to the Secretary of State.

The Chairman,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

(*Copy of message referred to.*)

The Chamber of Commerce and Planters' Association representing the Tea interests of Ceylon enter their respectful but emphatic protest against the imposition of further -/2d per lb. Duty on Tea.

They submit that a crushing burden of over 100 % on the value of their staple product is calculated to very seriously imperil its prospects and thereby the welfare of the Colony.

They further respectfully submit that this Crown Colony is worthy of better consideration.

From Bengal Chamber of Commerce.
To Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

Calcutta, 20th April, 1904.

" Your message Tea Association have asked Viceroy protest
" against enhancement duties public meeting called for Saturday noon
" wire what steps you are taking."

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 21st April, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I beg to confirm my telegram of yesterday's date, asking what action you proposed taking in consequence of imposition of further two-pence per lb. Duty on Tea and thank you for your reply.

I now enclose copy of telegram sent you to-day embodying a message which has been despatched to the Secretary of State, relative to the increased duty on behalf of this Chamber and the Ceylon Planters' Association.

The Secretary,
Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

(*Copy of Telegram referred to.*)

Colombo, 21st April, 1904.

From Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.
To The Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

"Do not propose holding Public Meeting but have despatched "following message to Secretary of State. The Chamber of Com- "merce and Planters' Association, representing the Tea interests of "Ceylon enter their respectful but emphatic protest against the "imposition of further two-pence per pound Duty on Tea. They sub- "mit that a crushing burden of over hundred per cent, on the value "of their staple product is calculated to very seriously imperil its "prospects and thereby the welfare of the Colony. They further "respectfully submit that this Crown Colony is worthy of better "consideration."

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 22nd April, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to telegraph to the Secretary of State for the

Colonies, with His Excellency's own earnest commendation, the representation of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Planters' Association in regard to the increase of 2d per lb. in the import Duty on Tea.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretar y

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 22nd April, 1904.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of this date, I am directed to forwa'd to you herewith a copy of the telegram sent by His Excellency tne Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with regard to the increase of 2d per lb. in the import Duty on Tea.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secreary.

(*Telegram referred to*).

I am requested to transmit following telegram.—Telegram begins:—The Chamber of Commerce and Planters' Association representing the tea interests of Ceylon enter their respectful but emphatic protest against the imposition of further two-pence per pound Duty on Tea. They submit that a crushing burden of over 100 % on the value of their staple product is calculated very seriousy to imperil its prospects and therefore the welfare of the Colony. They further respectfully submit that this Crown Colony is worthy of greater consideration. I agree with above representation that the additional duty may have seriously depressing effect on important industry in its exports to England in competition with cheaper Chinese Teas.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 22nd April, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour, under instructions from my Committee, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date and to express the thanks of this Chamber to His Excellency the Governor for telegraphing to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with His Excellency's own earnest commendation, the representation of the Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association with regard to the increase of -/2d per lb. import Duty on Tea.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 22nd April, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I beg to append for your information copy of telegram it has decided to despatch to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce relative to the increase import Duty on Tea.

I am directed by the Chairman to state that in forwarding the message he has taken the liberty of including the name of the Planters' Association feeling sure you would cordially support any action this Chamber is taking in protesting against the increased Duty.

The Chairman,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

(*Copy of telegram referred to.*)

" Chamber of Commerce and Planters' Association of Ceylon desire
" to associate themselves in your protest against imposition of
" further -/2d per lb. Duty on Tea."

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 26th April, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I beg to confirm telegram despatched on 23rd instant which, it is hoped, reached you at the time the meeting was held at your Chamber, on that day, advising that the Chamber of Commerce and Planters' Association of Ceylon desired to associate themselves in your protest against the further imposition of -2d per lb. import Duty on Tea.

The Secretary,
Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 27th April, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I beg to confirm my telegram of 21st instant as per annexed copy despatched under instructions from my Committee through Reuter's, embodying a message transmitted through His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by this Chamber and the Planters' Association protesting against the imposition of a further -/2d per lb. Duty on Tea. This telegram will have shewn you the very strong feeling that exists here on the matter, and further expressions of opinion will, no doubt, be forthcoming at a General Meeting of the Planters' Association to be held on the 7th proximo.

William Martin Leake, Esq.,
The Secretary,
Ceylon Association in London,
61 & 62, Gracechurch, St.,
London, E. C.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Royal Exchange Building,
Calcutta, 23rd April, 1904

No. 678-1904.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to inform you that at a largely attended public meeting held today, at the rooms of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the following resolution was unanimously carried on the motion of Mr. Lockhart Smith, Chairman of the Indian Tea Association, seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Hamilton, viz :—

"That this meeting views with grave apprehension and alarm the decision of His Majesty's Ministers to enhance the British Import Duty upon Tea, and while fully alive to the difficulties of the present financial situation and to the need for additional revenue, is distinctly of opinion that British grown Tea is already bearing more than its full share of the burden, and most emphatically protests against any addition being made thereto, the Industry being absolutely unable to bear any further taxation.

"That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Government of India, the Government of Bengal, the Chambers of Commerce of Bombay, Madras, and Ceylon, and to the leading Indian and English Newspapers."

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. PARSONS,
Secretary.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta, 28th April, 1904.

No. 714-1904.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to enclose herein for your imformation a copy of the Proceedings of a public meeting which was held here

on Saturday last, the 23rd April, to protest against the proposed enhancement of the British Import Duty on Tea.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. PARSONS,
Secretary.

ENCLOSURE :—
(*Copy of proceedings referred to.*)

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

ROYAL EXCHANGE BUILDING,
Calcutta, 23rd April, 1904.

A Public Meeting to protest against the enhancement of the British Import Duty on Tea was held this day.

PRESENT.

Hon. Mr. A. A. Apcar, *President of the Chamber in the Chair* ...	*Messrs. Apcar & Co.*
Mr. Lockhart Smith ...	,, *Williamson Magor & Co.*
,, R. L. Williamson...	
,, S. G. Anderson ...	
,, A. D. Gordon ...	
,, G. R. Wills ...	
,, R. H. A. Gresson ...	,, *Jardine, Skinner & Co.*
,, R. Jardine Paterson ...	
Hon. Mr. D. M. Hamilton ...	,, *Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co.*
Mr. J. D. Nimmo ...	,, *Duncan Brothers & Co.*
,, Alex. Tocher ...	
,, H. Bateson ...	,, *Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.*
,, H. T. Peter ...	,, *Geo. Henderson & Co.*
,, P. E. Cameron ...	*Agent, Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.*
,, D. King ...	*Managing Director, Bank of Calcutta.*
,, Fred. Harley ...	*Messrs. F. Harley & Co.*
,, N. A. Macleod ...	,, *McLeod & Co.*
,, E. W. Bowrey ...	
,, C. R. Hills ...	,, *J. Thomas & Co.*
,, R. G. Bates ...	
,, E. C. C. Haythorne ...	
,, A. F. Bruce ...	
,, J. E. Cubitt ...	
,, T. Watson ...	,, *Innes, Watson & Co.*
,, Wm. Cole ...	,, *Lampard Clark & Co.*

Mr. W. R. T. Aitken ...	... *Messrs. Kettlewell, Bullen & Co.*
,, J. Mackillican ...	,, *J. Mackillican & Co.*
,, W. H. Miles ...	
,, M. Trevor ...	,, *Carritt, Moran & Co.*
,, G. H. Hilliard ...	
,, John Gemmell ...	,, *Balmer, Lawrie & Co.*
,, Geo. A. Ormiston ...	
,, H. W. Carr ...	
,, P. R. B. Lawrie ...	
,, J. W. Baker ...	... ,, *Barry & Co.*
,, W. Brown ...	,, *Finlay, Muir & Co.*
,, W. Warrington ...	
,, Robt. Graham ...	
,, R. Langford James	
,, W. N. Winckworth	
,, A. H. Nicoll ...	
,, G. Stewart McCombie	
,, D. Currie ...	,, *Macneill & Co.*
,, A. Topping ...	
,, C. Greenway ...	,, *Shaw, Wallace & Co.*
,, E. A. Chettle ...	
,, S. Jameson ...	
,, R. P. Anderson ...	
,, G. Kingsley ...	
,, A. W. Figgis ...	,, *A. W. Figgis & Co.*
,, S. B. Robinson ...	
,, D. A. Campbell ...	,, *Begg, Dunlop & Co.*
,, G. Pickford ...	
,, W. Touch ...	... *Manager, National Bank of India, Ld.*
,, T. Traill ...	*Messrs Octavius Steel & Co.*
,, F. G. Clarke ...	
,, G. H. L. Mackenzie	... ,, *James Arbuthnot & Co.*
,, J. R. Bertram ...	... ,, *Gladstone Wyllie & Co.*
,, S. Moran ...	... ,, *Moran & Co.*
,, H. W. Sutcliffe ...	... ,, *Barlow & Co.*
,, Geo. R. Main ...	... ,, *A. & J. Main and Co., Ld.*
,, G. A. Murray ...	... *The Planters' Stores & Agency Co., Ld.*
,, James Luke ...	... *Messrs. W. H. Targett & Co.*
,, A. Ronald ...	... ,, *Sinclair, Murray & Co.*
,, John Davenport ...	,, *Davenport & Co.*
,, T. A. Magnus ...	
,, E. Coleman ...	
,, E. J. Wright ...	... *Manager, Delhi & London Bank, Ld.*
,, E. A. N. Skipwith	... *Messrs. Brooke, Bond & Co.*
,, D. Lindsay ...	... *Secretary, Royal Insurance Co.*
,, E. A. Goward ...	... *Messrs. Walker, Goward & Co.*

Mr. R. P. Ashton ... ... „ R. R. Toynbee	*Messrs. Kilburn & Co.*
„ Reginald Murray	*Chief Manager, Commercial Bank, of India, Ld.*
„ W. A. Langdon	*Agent, Alliance Bank of Simla, Ld.*
„ T. R. Pratt	*Messrs Davidson & Co., Ld.*
„ C. Morris	„ *Jessop & Co., Ltd.*
„ N. J. Valetta	„ *N. J. Valetta & Co.*
„ E. H. Elles ... ... „ O. Schmidt Ernsthausen ...	„ *Pigott, Chapman & Co.*
„ E. A. Mitchell	„ *W. S. Cresswell & Co.*
„ W. E. Preston	*Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China.*
„ C. L. Fyffe	*Manager and Underwriter, Commercial Union Assce. Co.*
„ F. B. Barber	*Messrs. Sinclair & Eck.*
„ E. C. Whitehead	*The Indian Planters' Gazette.*
„ C. N. Durrant	*Messrs. Rowley Davies & Co.*
„ H. St. John Jackson ...	*Editor, Indian Planting & Gardening.*
„ J C. Wilson	*Editor, Indian Daily News.*
Baboo R. C. Mullick	*Messrs. M. L. Chunder & Co.*
„ Gopal Laul Burral ...	„ *G. L. Burral & Co.*
„ B. B. Seal	„ *Mullick & Co.*
Mr. W. R. C. Jewell	*Deputy Traffic Manager, Calcutta Port Commissionors.*
„ J. Horne	
Baboo Mohendra Nath Dutt ...	
„ Baney Madhub Bannerjee ...	
„ Purna Chunder Seal ...	
Mr. J. G. Demetrius	
„ M Koch	
„ C. Arthur Turton... ...	
„ G. Jamieson	
„ R. J. Reid	
„ J. Binning	
„ Ignaz Holzmann	
„ Fred. Woodhouse... ...	
„ J. C. Stalkartt	
„ Geo. Ward	
„ G. L. Sidey	

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said :—

Gentlemen,—When I was asked to preside at this important meeting to-day, I felt some hesitation in accepting the invitation. I thought perhaps some other person who had a personal interest in the Tea industry would be more competent to preside, but as President, at the time, of this Chamber I felt it was my duty and privilege to accept the invitation.—(*Hear, hear.*) I take it that I am expressing to some extent the sympathy of the whole body of members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce with the representatives of the great Indian Tea Industry in this new crisis which they have been called upon suddenly to face. A similar meeting to the present was held early in the year 1902 to protest against the enhancement of the British Import Duty on tea then rumoured to be under the consideration of His Majesty's Government and to urge upon the Government of India, the vital necessity of strongly opposing the placing of any further burden upon the Tea Industry. The protest made at the meeting was an exceedingly vigorous one, and we flattered ourselves, though as it now appears vainly, that in view of the already heavy taxation on tea, *viz.*, 6*d.* per pound, 2*d.* of which was as a matter of fact an extra tax imposed in consequence of the financial necessities of Government resulting from the South African War, not only would no more be heard of the proposal to impose additional taxation, but that we might fairly anticipate some early reduction of the tax. I think I am justified in saying that a fortnight ago there was not a shadow of the present cloud on the horizon and even later than that when a rumour appeared in the Press that an enhancement of the Tea Duty was contemplated, understand that a message was received from the representatives of the Tea Industry in London, stating that they attached no importance to the rumour. This of course goes to show how wel His Majesty's Ministers had kept their official secret, and the rap dity with which the proposal has been carried by a vote in the House of Commons sufficiently emphasises the determination of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to carry it through, the only satisfactory feature of the debate being the very large minority who vote against it. It may seem, gentlemen, somewhat of the nature of forlorn hope to protest against a measure which has been carried in

the House of Commons, but that fact does not relieve us from the duty of protesting against what we all believe to be a grave injustice to an already over-burdened and struggling industry.—(*Hear, hear.*) It is only within the last year or so that the Tea Industry has begun to recover slightly from the great depression under which it has laboured for a considerable time, a depression which was undoubtedly enhanced by the imposition of the War Tax of 2*d.*, a great proportion of which had undoubtedly to be borne by the producer. That this will again be the case is practically certain, the optimistic statements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer notwithstanding.

I think you all know I have no personal interest in Tea as it happens to be a line my firm has not taken up. As an impartial and unprejudiced party I have no hesitation in joining in a firm, carefully considered and respectful protest against the enhanced duty, and I have no doubt that the Resolution which will presently be placed before you for adoption will meet with your unanimous and cordial support. (*Cheers.*)

With your permission I will now ask our Secretary, Mr. Parsons, to read the telegrams received from Ceylon and all parts of India n this important matter.

The Secretary then read the following telegrams :—

From Ceylon Chamber of Commerce :—Do not propose holding public meeting, but have despatched following message to Secretary of State. "The Chamber of Commerce and Planters' Association, representing the tea interests of Ceylon, enter their respectful but emphatic protest against the imposition of further two-pence per pound Duty on Tea. They submit that a crushing burden of over one hundred per cent. on the value of their staple product is calculated to very seriously imperil the prospects and thereby the welfare of the colony. They further respectfully submit that this Crown Colony is worthy of better consideration."

From Ceylon Chamber of Commerce :—Chamber of Commerce, Planters' Association, Ceylon, desire associate themselves in your protest agains further imposition two-pence per pound Duty on Tea.

From Assam Branch :—This Association consider enhancement

British Import Duty most inequitable, and that imposition will have disastrous effect on the industry. Heartily concur with object of your meeting.

From Assam Branch—Galahat District :—This district greatly agitated : strongly protest against increased Tea Duty. Industry already over-burdened. Cannot stand further strain without most disastrous results.

From Assam Branch—Sonari Circle :—Members Sonari Circle wish to record their strong protest against extra import Duty on Tea.

From Assam Branch—Dibrugarh Sub-Committee :—Dibrugarh Sub-Committee Assam Branch view further enhancement duty with profound astonishment and consternation and vigorously protest.

From Assam Branch—Nowgong Sub-Committee :—Strongly protest against increase duty which means ruination to an already struggling British Industry. It will further reduce consumption, and from experience we know the greater part of the increased burden will be thrown on producers.

From Assam Branch—Tezpore Sub-Committee :—District unanimously record strong protest against iniquitous increase of Duty on Tea, thereby taxing an industry over 100 per cent. on value, a tax no other industry in the world asked to bear; and it appeals to members of Parliament irrespective of party to resist so inequitable a tax and to the Government of India to energetically support the protest of an industry which has brought millions of capital into India and opened out large tracts of country.

From Assam Branch—Mangaldai District :—Mangaldai District join in strong united protest again crushing increase Tea Import Duty.

From Assam Branch—Moriani Sub-Committee :—Jorhat Sub-Committee protest most strongly against increase of Tea Duty.

From Assam Branch—Nazria Sub-Committee :—My Committee view with alarm the enhanced duty on Tea especially considering the present struggling state of the industry. Suggest that British-grown Tea should be taxed more lightly than China and Java products.

From Assam Branch—Bishnath Circle :—Bishnath Branch strongly protest against raising British import duty.

From Assam Branch—Doom Dooma Circle :—The Planters of Doom Dooma Circle protest against British Import Duty on Tea being raised.

From Darjeeling Planters' Association :—Darjeeling Planters' Association strongly protest against increased Tea Duty, as calculated to seriously effect the industry, and consider vigorous measures should be adopted to oppose the imposition.

From Dooars Planters' Association :—Dooars Planters' Association heard with alarm raising British import duty eight-pence urgently protest against ruinous tax.

From United Planters' Association of Southern India :—This Association enters strong protest against increase British Tea Duty as certain to check consumption, and like to fall partly on the producer.

From Kangra Valley Planters' Association:—Kangra Planters' lodge their unqualified protest against the increase of the British Import Duty on Tea.

From Dehra Dun Planters' Association :—We strongly protest against excessive Import Duty : fully approve any action you may take at public meeting on Saturday.

Mr. Lockhart Smith, Chairman of the Indian Tea Association, said :—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—As our Chairman has said, we are met here to-day to protest in no uncertain voice against the increase of 2*d.* per lb. in the British Import Duty on Tea. I must say that the announcement that the British Government proposed increasing the already heavy tax on our industry came as a most unwelcome surprise to me. As you are aware the duty on Tea was increased from 4*d.* to 6d. per lb. in 1900, that is during the dark days of the Boer war, when all were prepared to assist the British Government as far as possible, but the increase has all along been looked upon as a war tax. As sometime had elapsed since the close of the war it was considered that the time had arrived when we might reasonably expect that we should be

relieved from the burden of the war tax. The London Tea Asso ciations of India and Ceylon therefore petitioned the Chancellor of the Exchequer in February last for a remission in the Tea Duty. The reply received was certainly not encouraging, being in effect that in the present state of national finances there was no prospect of any remission of taxation during the coming year. It was indeed somewhat ominous that the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not content himself by holding out no hope of a remission on taxation, but proceeded to controvert certain of the statistical arguments regarding the falling off in consumption adduced in the London Associations' petition. Needless to say the figures quoted by the London Associations were in order, and I think the following quotation from their reply will be of interest :—

"In support of the accuracy of our statement we would refer you to the Official Accounts relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for December, 1903, page 48, and to the Statistical Abstract (50th mumber) page 265. You will therein find conclusive proof of our assertion, as the figures show the consumption in 1900 to have been 6·06 lbs. per head, while in 1903 the population is given at 42,372,556, and consumption of Tea at 255,365,953 lbs. which works out at 6·03 per head."

I am not aware of any written reply having been sent to these incontrovertible facts, but it seems to me that the Chancellor of the Exchequer must have a rather sardonic sense of humour as his *practical* reply has been to raise the Tea Duty by 2*d.* per lb. From the fact of the Chancellor of the Exchequer questioning the statistics of the London Association it might be inferred that he does not hold that increased taxation affects consumption, but that such is the case is admitted by all economists. Mr. John Stuart Mill, in his work on the Principles of Political Economy, states :—"The higher price necessitated by the tax (an import duty) almost always checks the demand for the commodity," and what do we find in connection with our Tea Industry? With the imposition of the extra 2*d.* in 1900 the consumption per head falls from 6·06 to 6·03, and it is only natural to suppose that the consequence of the

further increase will be a further falling off in the consumption of British-grown Tea. I say British-grown Tea purposely, as it is to me rather an ominous fact that while the imports of China Tea fell from 164½ millions in 1880-81 to 22,184,000 in 1900, they have slowly but surely increased during the past three years. We have, therefore, two rather unpleasant factors to face in consequence of the increased taxation, *viz.*, a general falling off in consumption, and a recovery in the imports of cheap China Tea. It is very hard that just as our Industry is emerging from a series of lean years, it should get this set back. If it were admitted by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer that our industry with a taxation equal to 75 per cent. was heavily taxed, how is a taxation of 107½ per cent. to be described? It is not for me to suggest to the Chancellor of the Exchequer what commodities should have been taxed before our Industry was again touched, but if he had not the requisite technical knowledge of existing fiscal matters, I am quite sure his father the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain could have readily posted him up in all fiscal questions. The Budget which has just been presented and blessed by the leaders of the Government and of the Opposition is not to my mind the Budget of a statesman but of a department. Funds are required, and the simplest and most economical means of obtaining these funds has been adopted without reference to the fairness or otherwise of the incidence of the taxation. It may be of course, that the Budget is intended to be much more far reaching in effect than is at present apparent. No doubt all of you perused with interest Mr. Chamberlain's great speech at Glasgow in October last, and will remember the following :—"But I propose also some great remissions. I propose to take off three-fourths of the duty on Tea." Here we have a distinct promise of a marked remission in the Tea Duty if certain fiscal alterations are adopted, whereas under the existing *regime* it is found necessary to enhance the already heavy burden on the industry.

Be that as it may, gentlemen, we have to face a prohibitive duty on our produce. The industry has protested times out of

number against its burden; the Government of India has in the past supported our protests, but what has been done by that by no means as a rule silent body the Temperance Party at home? So far as I am aware simply nothing. I believe the Temperance Party at home have a numerical strength of about seven millions or about one-seventh of the population of Great Britain, and should exercise simply enormous influence in keeping the House of Commons steady over the question of the Tea Duty. I cannot understand their being lukewarm, and as we must agitate and agitate until we have the Tea Duty brought down to reasonable limits, I trust an endeavour will be made to get the Temperance Party at home to take the matter up vigorously. To my mind one of the most unfortunate aspects of the duty question is the disorganisation of trade that ensues as a consequence of this frequent tampering by Government; year after year we find the same question cropping up in the Trade: "What is going to happen to the duty this year?" with the result that there is an uncertain feeling amongst buyers, for some months before the Budget is presented. That this must be detrimental to our industry will be at once apparent to all business men, and to put it briefly and simply, is not *fair* to the Industry. That is the term that most appeals to me in connection with the whole matter. The industry is not being *fairly* treated. We Britishers are proud of our sense of fairness, but cannot understand by what method of reasoning the British Government can consider a duty of 8*d.* per lb. on tea in any way *fair* taxation. The average per lb. value of British-grown Tea during the past season is not likely to exceed 7½*d*, and on this a duty of 8*d.* per lb. is to be imposed is equal to 107½ per cent.! Is this fair? I think not, and we should not rest satisfied until we have the Tea Duty considerably reduced if not ultimately abolished. (*Applause.*) I have, therefore, Gentlemen, much pleasure in proposing the following Resolution:—

"That this meeting views with great apprehension and alarm the decision of His Majesty's Ministers to enhance the British Import duty on Tea, and while fully alive to the difficulties of the present financial situation and to the need for additional revenue, is

distinctly of opinion that British-grown Tea is already bearing more than its full share of the burden and most emphatically protests against any addition being made thereto.

"That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Government of India, the Government of Bengal, to the Chambers of Commerce of Bombay, Madras and Ceylon, and to the leading Indian, and English Newspapers."

The Hon. Mr. D. M. Hamilton, in seconding the resolution, said :—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I take it that we have met here to-day more with the object of relieving our feelings, than with the hope that we shall succeed in getting the Home Government to reconsider its decision in the matter of the additional duty on Tea. Just when the planter was again beginning to find his feet comes another knock-down blow, and from the quarter least expected.—(*Hear, hear.*) For the last twelve months the chief exponent of the policy of the Home Government has been stumping the country, talking of reducing the duty on Tea and transferring the equivalent to the foreigner, and this is the result. The position of the Tea trade now is, that while the planter makes little or nothing for himself, he makes a clear profit of 8*d.* per pound for the people of Great Britain besides another 2*d.* or 3*d.* for the Home dealer. The industry which more than any other contributes to the solace of mankind, and which pours wealth into the pockets of the British people, is to have nothing left for itself. Is this fair dealing from a fair trade Government ? I know we shall be told that the trade will soon adjust itself to the new conditions, but what is the teaching on this point, of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain ? May I quote from a speech delivered by him in Newcastle in October last ?

"It is not certain," said Mr. Chamberlain, "that the consumer in England will pay any of the new taxes. When the McKinley tariff was put on, the woollen manufacturers of Bradford and Leeds declared that the tariff had injured their trade, in some cases almost destroyed it. Well, if Lord Goschen is correct, and the consumer pays the whole tax, it would not injure these people at all. There-

fore you come to this absurd doctrine, that no matter what taxes you put on foreign goods you do not injure the foreigner in the slightest degree, and he can do his trade just the same whatever your duty is. I ask Newcastle, I ask Glasgow, I ask Leeds, I ask Spitalfields,"—and might I suggest that he should also ask Calcutta?—"I ask every manufacturing place throughout the country whether they have found this to be true in their experience; whether when they have had a trade with the foreigner and he has put on a duty he has only hurt himself; and I ask whether they have been able to sell as much after the duty as before. In some cases the trade has been injured, and in some cases the trade has been absolutely destroyed, and that can only be because, after they have given up everything in the way of profit, in the way of reduction of wages that they can afford, still they have been beaten by the higher duty charged upon them."

This, Gentlemen, is the opinion of the man who is the mainstay of the British Government. They have imposed this tax while expressing the opinion that taxes so imposed injure or absolutely destroy the trade concerned; and, to use the picturesque language of Mr. Chamberlain, "are we to take it lying down?"

Gentlemen, in agreeing to the request of the Tea interest that Government should undertake the collection of the cess, the Government of India has shown its solicitude for the welfare of the trade, and we may trust it to do what lies in its power to protect us. But I am afraid that the voice of the Government of India and of the Tea trade will be as the voice of one crying in the wilderness. What is done is not likely to be undone. The Home Government must have money to pay its debts, and they will take it from that quarter where the voice is only heard from a distance. Gentlemen, I am no supporter of the great doctrine of retaliation, believing that men and nations are best left free to find their natural level, but that gospel has of late been dinned into our ears by the men who are responsible for the enhanced duty on Tea, and they could hardly blame India when she is in need of money, if she were to act on their teaching and put an additional

duty on the import of Manchester piece-goods, or a duty on the export of raw jute. What, in that case, would Manchester and Dundee say, and what would the Home Government say to our fair trade proposals?

But to come down to the plane of practical politics, we as the representatives of British capital in this country, and as part and parcel of the Empire, are entitled to expect that that capital shall be protected. The principle should be clearly laid down and recognised that where the interests of British capital in this country are involved, the industry concerned shall at least be given a hearing, and we may rest satisfied that the Government of India will do all that can be done to ensure that our interests are not sacrificed to the exigencies of a Budget for which we are not responsible, and that our capital is not made the plaything of party politics. *(Cheers.)* I have much pleasure, gentlemen, in seconding the resolution.

Mr. D. King, in supporting the resolution, said :—Gentlemen, anything more surprising than the imposition of the additional 2*d*. to the Tea duty by the Chancellor of the Exchequer this week could hardly have occurred, particularly when we remember that during the darkest days of the South African War, when the Government were at their wits' end to Budget in 1901 for war and ordinary expenditure a sum approaching 200 millions, and in 1902 for 160 millions, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, said "Tea is already taxed up to 75 per cent. of its value. Tea is now a produce mainly of India and Ceylon, a crop in which our own fellow subjects at home and abroad are deeply interested and the trade of which is at present, largely owing to over-production, not by any means in a satisfactory condition. I do not think we ought to increase the duty on Tea."

It is true that about the time Sir Michael Hicks-Beach made this speech, Sir R. Griffen wrote an article advocating enhancement, but if the Government in their distress did not think it fair to the grower to impose an additional duty then, what justification is there for their doing it now? As a matter of fact in 1900, when the last

addition to the duty was imposed, the average price of tea realized in London fell a penny from 1899 prices, a further farthing in 1901, and another farthing in 1902, recovering slightly over ½d. in 1903. So practically in 1902 we were bearing 1½d. of the additional 2d. imposed in 1900, and even last year with all the improvement, we had to bear probably as much as a penny. It is admitted that during the periods that consumption has been increasing, but undoubtedly this was due to the producer bearing the bulk of the extra duty. It must not be forgotten that far and away the largest consumers of tea in England are the masses, who live on the border land of poverty, for which class of the community Mr. Chamberlain in his tour through the country expressed such concern. Now if the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement that he does not anticipate any falling off in consumption, turns out to be true, one of two things must happen: (1) The bulk of the consumers not being able or willing to pay any extra price for tea will either have to drink tea of an inferior quality, which would help to bring back the China trade, which the India and Ceylon planters have done so much to oust, or the duty will have to come out of the pockets of the Indian and Ceylon growers. Apparently the Government have seized the Tea Duty as the easiest means of raising the wind, because the six millions tea now contributes can be increased to 8 millions, without the smallest additional cost of collecting. What is our position as investors in the tea growing industry? As a matter of fact the joint-stock capital of two hundred lakhs of rupees, apart from the proprietary capital, invested in tea has yielded to its unfortunate investors an average annually for the six years between 1898, and 1903, roughly of seven lakhs of rupees or 3½ per cent. and this includes 1903, which, it will be within your knowledge has been on the whole comparatively a good year. Taking the sterling capital, if I may properly call it (the converted rupee capital into sterling) of Indian Tea Companies, as 10 millions, the return for the four years ending 1902 (I cannot give 1903 as the sterling companies do not issue their reports till later) has been 3½ per cent., to put it into actual figures about £350,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer mulcts these unfortunate investors of income-tax to the extent of £17,500, so that

they are left with a return of something over $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. : assuming, and I think you will agree with me that I am considerably under the mark, that the growers have to bear only a penny of this extra duty, it will mean practically the extinction of all the profits, for taking the profits on tea all round they certainly have not for years averaged a penny a pound to the grower, so I put it to you, whether it is, if I may be permitted to say so, honest of the Government of England, to tax an industry, which has developed a province, provided hundreds of thousands of Indians with means of living, at the risk of depriving those who have embarked their money in tea growing of practically all profits. Of course, it is apparent to all of us that tea profits during the past few years have not been sufficient to attract the British capitalist generally to tea investments, outside those whose lives, or associations, have been in India, or are with India, and consequently the tea interest must be poorly represented in the House of Commons. Had we had a year or two of boom in Indian Tea, as a few years ago the Beer Companies had, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not have found it such an easy matter to tax an industry to the extent of depriving those who developed it of the probable chances of all profits. There is one point that strikes me particularly in the news wired from home and that is the remark said to be made by Mr. Chamberlain : whether it is the late Colonial Secretary, or whether it is the Chancellor, his son, I cannot say, but it is significant. Mr. Chamberlain is reported to have said : "That those who objected to the increase of the Tea Duty that it would injure India and Ceylon ought to have moved a preferential amendment." Can this possibly mean that he, whether son or father, looks upon this imposition of the extra duty, not as just, but as a diplomatic move, to try and force the tea industry to cry out for preferential treatment. There can be no question whatever, that if the electors had to pay the whole of this duty, the Chancellor would never have imposed it. When we were threatened before with rumours of impending additional tea duties, Lord Curzon promptly came to our assistance, and the tea duties were not increased, and as His Excellency has shown his appreciation of what India owes to the tea industry, and how desirable it is that it should prosper, and not be unfairly treated, we cannot, I am sure do better than

appeal again to His Excellency on the eve of his departure for home, to hold a brief for the tea industry, and ask for justice from his late colleagues. I suggest that the following words after the word "thereto" in the first part of the resolution be added :—"The industry being absolutely unable to bear any further taxation." (*Cheers.*)

This was accepted by the mover of the resolution.

Mr. G. A. Ormiston also supported the resolution. In doing so, he said :—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—In supporting the resolution before the meeting, I can add little more to what the previous speakers have said, as all interested in the industry can only have one opinion of the unjustness of the excessive tax. Mr. Austen Chamberlain in his Budget speech said he did not think the consumption of Tea would be materially checked by an additional duty. Let us imagine for the present that this may be the case, will the public pay the extra duty ?—I fear not, and we had this clearly demonstrated when the last rise in duty took place. In looking at the figures at home since the six penny duty was imposed early in 1900, I notice the average price realised for 1899 crop was 8¼*d.* while 1900 crop averaged 7¼*d.* ; and since then the price has only recovered a ¼*d.* during the past three seasons. On the other hand since 1899, deliveries have been 4 millions behind that year, and might I ask what is likely to be the result of this additional two pence ?—Cheap Tea is now established for the multitude, and it is not possible to think that the consumer will pay all this additional tax, and this will cause the greatest hardship and possibly ruin to many who have been striving hard to make both ends meet. China is likely to be benefited by being able to send home more cheap tea which will displace Indian, and naturally our supply will be greater than the demand, bringing about lower prices, and this gentlemen after so much money has been spent in opening up new and cultivating old markets, is to be deplored.

The industry has been long struggling to get its head above water and now it has been afflicted with an additional tax of two millions, making over a 100 per cent. on the value of tea. We now contribute annually the monstrous sum of eight millions to the

Exchequer, or about half of the capital sunk in the industry and the question asked is,—has the real position been given by those in power more than a passing thought?—It looks as if the readiest means of raising money has been seized without considering how grave the situation is.

This, gentlemen, is the way British people are treated on coming to this country, working harder than most men at home, in a climate which plays havoc with most constitutions, and we are the people who place our hard earned savings in opening out this vast country from dense jungles and have been the means of giving employment to over half a million of people. This is the treatment we receive at the hands of responsible men who have been placed in power to mete out justice to all. That money has been recklessly squandered goes without saying, and we have to pay the piper by contributing by far the largest share out of all proportion to other necessaries of life—tea being an article of universal consumption not of luxury. Gentlemen, as we are all of one opinion that this additional tax is most unjust, practically a death warrant to many—we must enter a strong protest and pass the resolution before the meeting.—(*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. J. C. Stalkartt also addressed the meeting in support of the resolution.

The amended resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, proposed by Mr. N. A Macleod and seconded by Mr. R. H. A. Gresson, the meeting separated.

(Signed) W. PARSONS, *Secretary.*

(Signed) A. A. APCAR, *Chairman.*

Immediately after the meeting the following telegram was despatched by the Chairman to the Private Secretary to H. E. the Viceroy, *viz.* :—

"At a largely attended Public Meeting just held at the Chamber of Commerce at which I presided, the following Resolution was

unanimously passed. *Begins* "That this meeting views with grave apprehension and alarm the decision of His Majesty's Ministers to enhance the British Import Duty upon Tea, and while fully alive to the difficulties of the present financial situation and to the need for additional revenue, is distinctly of opinion that British Grown Tea is already bearing more than its full share of the burden, and most emphatically protests against any addition being made thereto, the industry being absolutely unable to bear any further taxation. That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Government of India, Government of Bengal, the Chambers of Commerce of Bombay, Madras and Ceylon, and to the leading Indian and English newspapers." *Ends.* I have to request that you will submit this to His Excellency as he knowing full well how disastrous this additional burden will be to the Tea industry, will, I venture to hope, take such step as His Excellency considers advisable."

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 3rd May, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 28th ultimo, enclosing a copy of proceedings of a public meeting held at your Chamber on the 23rd idem, to protest against the proposed enhancement of the British Import Duty on Tea.

W. Parsons, Esq.,
The Secretary,
Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy, 17th May, 1904.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the annexed copy of Resolution, passed at a recent meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon regarding the necessity of a Standard being fixed for all Teas entering Great Britain and Ireland for Home consumption, I am to ask the Chamber to kindly draft the letter proposed to be

referred to Calcutta for approval with a view to joint united action in the matter.

As the suggestion was, it is believed, made by the Hon'ble Mr. Figg, who is also Chairman of the Chamber, it is felt that this course of procedure, if adopted as it is hoped it will, would be satisfactory and ensure the desired co-operation on this important question generally.

Awaiting your advices and thanking you in anticipation,

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. PHILIP,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

(*Copy of Resolution referred to.*)

"That in the conjunction with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce a letter be prepared urging the necessity of a Standard being fixed for all teas entering Great Britain and Ireland for Home consumption (11) That the proposed letter be referred to Calcutta for approval with a view to joint united action in the matter."

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 18th May, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date under the above heading, contents of which are duly noted and shall have the early attention of my Committee.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Alexander Philip, Esq.,
Secretary,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 4th June, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that I duly submitted to His Excellency the Governor the copy of the telegram which the Chamber of Commerce desired His Excellency to despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding the increase of 2d per lb. in the duty on tea.

2. The Governor desires me to state that it would be more regular if a resolution on the lines of the proposed telegram were passed and forwarded to His Excellency for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

3. I am to add that His Excellency does not feel justified at present in doing more than forwarding any resolution that may be sent to him.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 7th June, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 4th instant, and in conformity with the desire expressed by His Excellency the Governor, I am directed to state that at a Meeting of the Committee of this Chamber it was resolved that a further representation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies should be made in order to try and induce His Majesty's Government to reconsider the further increase of -/2d per lb in the Customs Duty on Tea imported into the United Kingdom.

Under instructions from my Committee and with the concurrence of the Chairman of the Planters' Association, I have the honour to append draft of a message which my Committee will be grateful if His Excellency will transmit to the Secretary of State for the

Colonies with any additions which in His Excellency's opinion will further the object in view.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

(*Draft message referred to.*)

"The Tea producers of Ceylon having received no satisfactory reply to their representations on 23rd February, or telegram of 21st April, respectfully urge reconsideration of their case before the tax of 2d per lb on Tea is finally passed in Committee."

"They beg Government to remember the pledge given by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer and again respectfully submit that His Majesty's loyal Colonists are deserving of greater consideration."

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 9th June, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to forward to you for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the accompanying copy of Despatch received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reply to the protest against the imposition of a further increase of 2d a pound in the Customs Duty on tea imported into the United Kingdom.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

(*Despatch referred to.*)

No. 172.

Downing Street,
17th May, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 21st ultimo forwarding a protest from the Chamber of Com-

merce and Planters' against the imposition of a further increase of -/2d a pound in the Customs Duty on Tea imported into this country, and adding that you consider that the additional duty may have a seriously depressing effect on the Ceylon industry in its exports to England in competition with the cheaper China Teas.

2. A copy of your telegram has been laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and in reply they have asked me to express the regret of His Majesty's Government that financial exigencies prevent their being able to meet the wishes of the Colony of Ceylon in this matter.

3. It is, I hope, unnecessary for me to say that I sympathize with the position of the Ceylon community in having their staple product subjected to further taxation on entering the home market. I can only express a sincere hope that the great tea industry will suffer less from the effects of the duty than is at present anticipated.

Governor
Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.C.,
&c., &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ALFRED LYTTELTON.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 14th June, 1904.

SIR,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of 9th instant, enclosing for the information of this Chamber copy of a Despatch received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reply to the protest against the imposition of a further increase of -/2d per lb. Duty on Tea.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 10th June, 1904.

No. 011759,

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 7th June, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor despatched the following telegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to-day on the subject of the further increase of -/2d per lb. in the Customs Duty on Tea imported into the United Kingdom:—

"At request of Chamber of Commerce and Planters' Association I transmit following telegram to you—Telegram begins: Tea producers of Ceylon having received no satisfactory reply to representation of 23rd February or 21st April respectfully urge reconsideration of case before tax of -/2d per lb. on tea finally settled in Committee—They beg Government to remember pledge given by late Chancellor of Exchequer and again respectfully submit that His Majesty's loyal Colonists are deserving of further consideration—Telegram ends. Copy of your Despatch, No. 172 of 17th May, had been shewn to Chamber of Commerce."

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 14th June, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your, No. 011759, of 10th instant, and to express the thanks of this Chamber to His Excellency the Governor for telegraphing to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the further representations of the Chamber and Planters' Association, relative to the increase of -/2d per lb. Duty on Tea imported into the United Kingdom, in terms of the draft message forwarded with my letter of 7th instant.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

PREVENTION OF SALE OF RUBBISHY TEAS.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 8th March, 1904.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 25th ultimo, addressed to the Colombo Tea Traders' Association on the above subject, has been referred to this Chamber.

As it will be necessary to obtain Legislation in order to carry out the recommendations of the Committee it is considered advisable that the Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Planters' Association, should take action in the matter, and as a preliminary step, the Chairman of the Chamber proposes to interview the Attorney-General, unofficially, with a view to obtaining his general approval to the legislation required.

I am directed to ask if the Chairman of your Association will make it convenient to confer with the Chairman of the Chamber on the question when next in Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

(Letter referred to the Chamber.)

Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy, 25th Februray, 1904.

Dear Sir,

Adverting to your letter of the 23rd December, 1903, with the accompanying copy of report as to the sale of Rubbishy Teas in Colombo Harbour and also to your letter of the 15th instant with accompanying sample, I now write to invite attention to the annexed copy of Resolution unanimously passed at a recent General Meeting of the Planters' Association of Ceylon on the subject.

As stated in the Resolution the Planters' Association will cordially support the Colombo Tea Traders' Association and the

Chamber of Commerce in approaching Government with a view to giving effect to the recommendations.

Awaiting your further advices and thanking you in anticipation,

The Secretary,
Colombo Tea Traders' Association,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. PHILIP,
Secretary.

(*Resolution referred to.*)

"That this Association approves of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Special Committee of the Colombo Tea Traders' Association for the Prevention of Sale of Rubbishy Tea submitted to your Committee, and would cordially support the Colombo Tea Traders' Association and the Chamber of Commerce in approaching Government with a view to giving effect to the recommendations."

Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy, 9th March, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 8th instant, which will be submitted to the Committee at next Meeting.

The attention of the Chairman will be drawn specially to the last paragraph of your letter.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed A. PHILIP,
Secretary.

RUSSIAN IMPORT DUTIES ON TEA.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 2nd Februray, 1904.

SIR,

I have the honour, under instructions from my Committee to

return herewith copies of the new General Customs Tariff for European Russia, and the proposed new Customs Tariff for Austria-Hungary, which my Committee have carefully perused. As however the duty on Ceylon products does not appear to have been altered this Chamber is of opinion that the Colony's interests are not immediately affected, but would urge on Government the advisability of doing all possible to reduce the import duty on Ceylon Tea into Russia.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 11th May, 1904.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 2nd February, 1904, I am directed to enclose for your information copy of a letter dated March 28th, 1904, from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office regarding the duty on Ceylon and Indian Tea imported into Russia.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

(*Letter referred to.*)

Foreign Office,
March 28th, 1904

SIR,

With reference to your letter (8931-04) of the 22nd instant respecting the Import Duty on Ceylon Tea into Russia, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that a copy of your letter has been forwarded to His Majesty's Ambassador at St Petersburg with instructions to make representations to the Russian Government on the subject whenever a favourable opportunity

offers, and to include in such representations the case of India Tea, which stands on the same footing.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

THE REPRESENTATIVES ON "THIRTY COMMITTEE" FOR 1904.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 17th February, 1904.

I beg to inform you that at the Half-yearly General Meeting of this Chamber held yesterday, Messrs. F. M. Mackwood, G. H. Alston, R. Davidson, W. Shakspeare, Geo. Croll and the Chairman of the Chamber were elected to represent this Chamber on the above Committee for the current year.

Any subsequent change will be duly made known to you.

Alex. Philip, Esq.,
The Secretary,
"Thirty Committee,"
Kandy.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 3rd May, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that Mr. G. H. Alston having resigned as a member of "Thirty Committee" representing the Chamber, Mr. G. F. Traill has consented to serve in his place for the current year.

Alex. Philip, Esq.,
The Secretary,
"Thirty Committee,"
Kandy.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 18th May, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to inform you that in consequence of the departure of Mr. F. M. Mackwood from the Island, Mr. S. P. Jeffery has consented to serve in his place on the "Thirty Committee" for the current year.

Kindly send him notices *re* meetings.

Alex. Philip, Esq.,
The Secretary,
"Thirty Committee,"
Kandy.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

COLOMBO TELEPHONE SERVICE.

No. 0394.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 27th January, 1904.

SIR,

With reference to the enquiry made in your letter of the 4th January, as to what steps are being taken to extend the Telephone System to private residences, I am directed to inform you that the Postmaster General reports that the acting Superintendent of Telegraphs is working out a scheme including the extension of the Telephone Exchange System to private residences.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

4, Prince Street,
Colombo, 14th March, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

We beg to enclose you a letter from the Postmaster General together with a copy of our reply, in response to our enquiry for

cost of connecting Villa Sorrento, Colpetty, and our Maddama Mills with the Telephone Exchange. We think this may interest the Committee of the Chamber.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
for Lipton Ld.,
(Signed) SEYMOUR P. JEFFERY.

(Letter referred to.)

No. 63162/95.

Postmaster General's Office,
Colombo, 8th March, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that if two lines are meant the rent will be :—

1st for exchange connection	to Villa Sorrento	Rs. 200
2nd do	to Maddama Mills	225
	Total	Rs. 425

If only one line, viz., Exchange Villa Sorrento-Maddama Mills (1 line and 2 telephones)	Rs. 350
Extra Switch and Bell	5
	Rs. 355

I am not in a position at present to give either line, but if you decide to have either of the above, I will note to supply it as soon as it is possible to do so.

The Manager,
Messrs. Lipton Limited,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) T. HARWARD,
for Postmaster General.

14th March, 1904.

Sir,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 63162/95 of the 8th inst. with quotations for exchange connection. We want "Villa Sorrento" and Maddama Mills connected with the exchange

to enable us to communicate from either place with all other subscribers.

If the rent stated (Rs. 425/-) is for this we regret it is much too high and we must wait until some revised rates are in force.

We venture to suggest however that some consideration should be given to the fact that we already pay Rs. 375/- per annum for connection at this Office, and private line from Fort to Maddama Mills, and the connection we now require is for two places, one of which would be useless to us without the other.

The Postmaster General, Colombo.

Your Obedient Servants,
(Signed) LIPTON LIMITED,
Manager.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 15th March, 1904.

DEAR SIRS,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date with copies of correspondence that has passed between the Postmaster General and yourselves relative to cost of connecting Villa Sorrento, Colpetty, and your Maddama Mills with the Telephone Exchange.

I am directed to inform you that the question of the extension of the Telephone system to private residences at moderate rates is engaging the attention of my Committee.

Messrs. Lipton Limited, Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 15th March, 1904.

SIR,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to draw your attention to your No. 0394 of 27th January, and as some time has elapsed to enquire when the scheme for the Extension of

the Telephone Exchange system to private residences therein referred to may be expected to be completed, I am further directed to point out that the institution of the all night service is likely to be of little use till such time as private residences can be connected with the Exchange.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed.) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 22nd March, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th March, 1904, and to state that the Postmaster General has been asked to expedite his report in connection with the extension of the Telephone Exchange System to private residences.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servent,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 19th April, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 22nd ultimo, I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to enquire whether the promised report from the Postmaster General in connection with the extension of the Telephone Exchange System to private residences is now available.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

No. 08482.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 26th April, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th April, 1904, enquiring whether the promised report from the Postmaster General in connection with the extension of the Telephone System to private residences is now available.

In reply, I am to inform you that a full report has been received from the Postmaster General. It is, however, at present under the consideration of the Government Consulting Electrical Engineer and is not yet available for publication.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 3rd May, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 08482, dated the 26th ultimo, advising that a full report from the Postmaster General in connection with the extension of the Telephone System to private residences has been received by you, which is at present, under the consideration of the Government Consulting Electrical Engineer and is not yet available for publication.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 24th May, 1904.

Sir,

With reference, to yours, No. 08482 of 26th ultimo, advising that the report from the Postmaster General in connection with the extension of the Telephone Service to private residences had been

received but was under the consideration of the Government Consulting Electrical Engineer, as some little time has since elapsed, I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to enquire whether the report is not yet available for publication.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 1st June, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th May, 1904, regarding the extension of the Telephone Service to private residences and to state that the report of the Postmaster General on the subject is being considered by a special Committee consisting of the Director of Public Works, the Postmaster General, the Consulting Electrical Engineer and the acting Superintendent of Telegraphs, who have been instructed to send in a joint report on the whole question.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 7th June, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 1st instant, stating that the Report of the Postmaster General on the question of the extension of the Telephone Service to private residences has been referred to a Special Committee for consideration and report.

In view of the extended period that has been occupied in formulating a workable scheme which will admit of the desired extension and the desire on the part of my Committee to be in a position to have something definite in this direction to lay before the Members of the Chamber at the Half-Yearly General Meeting to be held early in July, I am directed to enquire whether, failing the possibility of the promised report being available by that time, His Excellency the Governor would consent to receive a deputation from the Chamber on this important subject, which my Committee would respectfully submit has been unnecessarily delayed.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

No. 012386.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 27th June, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 7th June, I am directed to forward for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the accompanying copy of the report of the Special Committee appointed to consider the question of the re-arrangement of the Fort and Suburban Telephone Services with a view to their extension.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

(*Report referred to.*)

Colombo, 9th June, 1904.

With reference to your letter, No. 5912, dated 6th ultimo appointing us a Committee to report on the proposals made by the Superintendent of Telegraphs as set forth in his report dated 21st March, 1904, for the re-arrangement of the Fort and Suburban Telephone Services, we have the honour to report as follows:—

2. The Superintendent of Telegraphs proposals consist of:—

(*a.*) The removal of the Central Exchange from the General Post Office to a new building to be erected near the Fort Railway Station.

(*b.*) The formation of a subsidiary Exchange in Cinnamon Gardens.

(*c.*) The connection of the above exchange by an overhead system of conductors

3. The Consulting Electrical Engineer in his report, copy of which was forwarded with your letter under reference, recommends the adoption of proposal (*a*) conditional on the exchange being made large enough to accommodate all subscribers. He objects to proposal (*b*) on the grounds that a subsidiary Exchange is unnecessary and to proposal (*c*) on the grounds that its adoption will continue the objectionable system of overhead wires between the Fort and the suburbs.

4. The Consulting Electrical Engineer recommends the laying of a sub-aqueous cable in the Colombo Lake providing for the direct connection of 100 subscribers with the Fort Exchange.

5. The formation of a Central Exchange near the Fort Railway Station appears an urgent necessity if any extension of the present system of Telephonic communication either by receiving further subscribers within the Fort or extending its use in the suburbs is to be rendered practicable.

6. It further appears necessary, in view of the number of overhead wires at present carried in the Fort that in the event of the Government deciding to extend the use of the present system in the suburbs, to erect a subsidiery Exchange connected by "Junction" circuits or to lay a sub-aqueous cable with proper shore connection to land lines.

7. The approximate estimated cost of the project proposed by the Superintendent of Telegraphs including buildings is Rs. 130,000 and as modified by the Consulting Electrical Engineer providing for 100 subscribers in the Cinnamon Gardens Rs. 260,000.

8. In view of the large expenditure involved in the extension of the Telephonic system in the suburbs and the probable limited number of subscribers, we have to point out that it appears to us that the subscriptions received from private subscribers will not do more than cover the actual cost of working leaving the capital cost and that of renewals and maintenance of the system to be borne by the public revenue.

9. After careful consideration we are of opinion that

(1.) Extension of the telephone system by aerial lines from the exchange in the General Post Office building is impossible by reason of its position.

(2.) It is therefore advisable to build an Exchange elsewhere and the position indicated in the report of the Superintendent of Telegraphs is most suitable.

(3.) If the telephone system is to be extended to the suburbs the adoption of the proposal of the Superintendent of Telegraphs will effectively provide for such extension but the modifications recommended by the Consulting Electrical Engineer should be adopted as affording, though at double the initial cost, more direct communication and reducing to an appreciable extent the danger from over-head wires between the Fort and Cinnamon Gardens, and under favourable conditions the annual working expenses.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

We are, &c.,

(Signed) FRANCIS A. COOPER,
Director of Public Works.

(Signed) H. L. MOYSEY,
Postmaster General.

(Signed) A. S. BARNARD,
Consulting Electrical Engineer.

(Signed) P. T. MACNAMARA,
Acting Superintendent of Telegraphs.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 13th July, 1904.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, No. 012386, on the subject of Extension of the present Telephone System and to state that the report of the Special Committee appointed by Government to consider the question has been perused with interest by the Committee of the Chamber.

2. In reply I am directed to state that whilst the Committee of the Chamber is unable to offer any expression of opinion on the scheme formulated by the Superintendent of Telegraphs, or the Consulting Electrical Engineer, for an extension of the present Telephone System they regard such extension as are proposed in the report of urgent importance to the City. The lack of facilities as regards telephonic communication has long been a source of great inconvenience and complaint amongst merchants and residents and the steady growth of Colombo accentuates the necessity for better provision in this respect being made, and made promptly.

3. In regard to the general question of a Telephone System, I am to call your attention to my letter of the 2nd April, 1903, in which a detailed statement of service worked in other Eastern towns was sent you and would particularly emphasize paragraph (3) of that letter which read as follows :—

The following are noteworthy facts : (a) that the Companies conducting the Telephone Services of all the Ports abovenamed appear to give satisfaction to their subscribers, (b) that they do so in spite of their paying a 5% Royalty, (c) that in spite of their efficiency and of the burden of Royalty they are said to be successful undertakings.

I am further directed to state that given a moderate sum as subscription there is every possibility of Telephonic communication being largely availed of by many who are anxious to become subscribers on reasonable terms.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

LIGHTING OF THE EASTERN COAST OF THE ISLAND.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 3rd March, 1904.

Sir.

Adverting to my letter of the 27th November, 1903, on the subject of the Lighting of the East Coast of the Island, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter on the subject from the Board of Trade to the Colonial Office, London, and of the reply of the Colonial Office.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

Board of Trade, (Harbour Department,)
7, Whitehall Gardens, London, S. W.,
18th January, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, No. 44141/1903, in which you enclose copy of a despatch from the Governor of Ceylon suggesting that the Board should ascertain the views of British Shipowners with regard to the proposal to improve the lighting of the East Coast of that Island.

In reply I am to request that you will lay before Mr. Secretary Lyttleton the following observations :—

As the Board of Trade have already explained to the Secretary of State in their letters of the 20th March (H. 2610) and 23rd July last, (H. 9445) the Law Officers of the Crown have advised that the General Lighthouse Fund is not available for the erection and maintenance of new Colonial Lighthouses. Should the suggested lighthouse on the East Coast of Ceylon be erected it would be necessary to get an Act of Parliament passed to authorise a loan for the purpose. The cost of repaying such loan and of maintaining

the light would have to be met by special dues on passing vessels.

In considering this it has to be borne in mind that the British Shipowners already pay more for the Basses and Minicoy Lights than it costs to maintain them, but the surplus goes into the General Lighthouse Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act 1898 and in the opinion of the Law Officers above referred to is not available for the purpose of erecting or maintaining new lights.

The Board think that in these circumstances shipowners however much they may desire to have the new light will object to paying fresh dues, but they are willing upon learning that Mr. Lyttleton still desires it to put the case before the firms whose vessels are likely to use the light and to ascertain whether they wish the matter to be proceeded with despite the increased cost will entail on them.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) T. H. W. PELHAM.

No. 2011-1904.

Downing Street,
26th January, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttleton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. H 17491. of the 18th instant, and to say that the Secretary of State would be much obliged if the Board of Trade would ascertain the views of Shipowners concerned on the question of erecting a new lighthouse on the East Coast of Ceylon.

2. The present state of the law as explained in your letter precluding the erection and maintenance of new Colonial lighthouses out of the General Lighthouse Fund into which the surplus dues in respect of Colonial lights are paid appears to Mr. Lyttleton to be inconvenient and inequitable, and I am to suggest for the consideration of the Board that the first opportunity should

be taken to place the matter on a more satisfactory basis by an amendment of the Law.

The Assistant Secretary,
Harbour Department,
Board of Trade.

I am, Sir, etc.,
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 8th March, 1904.

Sir,

In further reference to your letter of 3rd instant, enclosing copies of correspondence that has passed between the Board of Trade and the Colonial Office, London, respecting the lighting of the East Coast of Ceylon, I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to request that Government will be good enough to ascertain from the Secretary of State whether, assuming the law now regulating the erection and maintenance of Colonial Lighthouses could be amended as suggested, the surplus funds would be sufficient to provide for the proposed additional light on Komarie Point.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 17th March, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th March, 1904, on the subject of the Lighting of the East Coast of Ceylon.

2. The enquiry proposed in your letter will be duly transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 24th May, 1904.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 17th March last, on the subject of the Lighting of the East Coast of Ceylon, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has received a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies intimating that a communication has been received from the Board of Trade stating that the views of certain of the principal Shipping Firms and Bodies have been obtained with regard to the proposal to improve the lighting of the East Coast of Ceylon and that replies in favour of it have been received from the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, Messrs. Cayzer Irvine & Company and the Hall Line, Limited. The general view of the companies is however that he means for erecting this lighthouse should be provided out of the surplus Capital and annual revenue now in the hands of the Board of Trade in respect of the dues levied on account of the Basses and Minicoy Lights, and that the proposal should not entail any additional charge on ship owners.

2. The Board of Trade on the other hand state that they see no prospect at present of introducing legislation to effect an alteration in the present state of the law which precludes the erection and maintenance of new Colonial Lighthouses out of the General Lighthouse Fund. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has expressed to the Board of Trade the hope that under the circumstances of the case the matter will be borne in mind and that the first convenient opportunity of amending the law will be taken, but for the present it would appear that further consideration of the proposal must be postponed.

3. The reply of the Board of Trade to the enquiry made in your letter of the 8th March last, has not yet been received, but Mr. Secretary Lyttleton presumes that in the event of the law being amended the surplus funds in the hands of the Board of Trade

would be sufficient to provide for the proposed light on Komarie Point.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 31st May, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 24th instant on the subject of the proposed improved lighting of the East Coast of Ceylon, contents of which I have been directed to circulate for the information of local Steam Ship Agents and their Principals.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

No. 011619.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 8th June, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st May, 1904, intimating that my letter of the 24th May last on the subject of the proposed improved Lighting of the East Coast of Ceylon has been circulated for the information of local Steam Ship Agents and their Principals.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 10th June, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to paragraph 3 of my letter of the 24th May

last, on the subject of the Lighting of the East Coast of Ceylon, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has received a further despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies intimating that a communication has been received from the Board of Trade replying in the affirmative to the enquiry of the Chamber of Commerce as to whether the surplus funds received on account of the Basses Lights would be sufficient to provide for the proposed additional light on Komarie Point.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 14th June, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of 10th instant, advising that His Excellency the Governor has received a further despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, intimating that a communication has been received from the Board of Trade stating that the surplus funds received on account of the Basses and Minicoy Lights are sufficient to provide for the proposed additional light on Komarie Point.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

CONFERENCE OF INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta, 15th February, 1904.

No. 261-1904.

Dear Sir,

Arrangements are being made for a Conference of the Indian Chambers of Commerce to be held in Calcutta early in January,

1905, for the discussion of subjects of mutual interest. The project has the cordial support of the Committees of the Bombay and Madras Chambers of Commerce and it is hoped that the proposed Conference may only be the first of further similar gatherings to be held periodically in different centres at which subjects of common interest to all the Chambers may be discussed with mutual benefit. Although your Chamber is not strictly speaking, an Indian Chamber of Commerce and you have to deal in mercantile matters with the Colonial Government and not with the Government of India, the Committee of this Chamber feel that there must be many matters in regard to which the interests of Ceylon are more or less identical with those of India, and I am directed to invite your Chamber to join the Conference and be represented by one or more delegates. The matter is to be taken in hand by the incoming Committee of the Chamber after the Annual Meeting which is to be held on the 29th February. This invitation is of course only preliminary and I shall be able to consult you later with regard to the date of meeting, the order of procedure and other details. The Committee trust that your Chamber will see their way to co-operate with them in this matter.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. PARSONS,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 23rd February, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th instant, and am directed by my Committee to express this Chamber's appreciation of your invitation to join the Conference of Indian Chamber of Commerce to be held at Calcutta early in January, 1905.

I am further instructed to inform you that this Chamber will endeavour to be represented by one or more delegates and will gladly co-operate with you in this matter.

The Secretary,
Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Royal Exchange Buildings,
Calcutta, 28th March, 1904.

No. 536-1904.

Dear Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 158, of 28th January, 1904, I have the pleasure to intimate that the proposal to hold a Conference of the Indian and Ceylon Chambers of Commerce in January 1905, has met with general approval and that promises of co-operation have been received from the Chambers of Commerce at Aden, Bombay, Cochin, Coconada, Karachi, Madras, Rangoon, and Colombo, and also from the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore.

2. It is now possible to proceed with the organisation of the Conference and the Committee would be glad to be informed as early as possible of the number of delegates your Chamber is likely to nominate. The principal matter for early consideration will be the official programme of the Conference and in order that the subjects for discussion may be communicated to the various Chambers so as to allow full time for their proper consideration, it will be necessary to draw up a preliminary programme at least not later than July or August next. The Committee are inclined to think that the discussions should be limited to matters which the various Chambers regard as of first class importance ; so that the official programme may not be over-weighted with resolutions of a purely local or subordinate character. In making this suggestion, however, the Committee do not in any way wish to discourage the discussion of subjects, which may be of special interest to individual Chambers and with regard to which the support of the whole body is sought. There can be little doubt that in respect of many questions, Government would lend more attention to a joint representation, than to an individual one, and this would apply not only to matters in which all the Chambers were interested, but also to those which affected trade in particular parts of India. Among other important matters which might be discussed, the Committee would venture to mention

Railway Administration and Extension, Imperial Communications, Improvement of Indian Waterways, Registration of Trade Marks, Revision of the Insolvency Law, Registration of Partnerships, the working of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, the Metric System of Weights and Measures, Commercial Education, the establishment of a Bureau of Commercial intelligence, the Income Tax Question, Bills of Lading and Preferential Tariffs. There are no doubt many other important subjects which could be suggested. I am desired by the Committee to ask if you will kindly take this matter into your careful consideration and favour them by the end of June with such suggestions as you may think fit either in the way of subjects for discussion or generally for making the meeting of the Conference as useful as possible to mercantile interests.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. PARSONS,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 12th April, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your Circular letter No. 536-1904 of 28th ultimo, with reference to the proposed Conference of Indian and Ceylon Chambers of Commerce, and to inform you that this Chamber, whose views quite accord with those stated in your letter under reply, hopes to be represented at the Conference by two or three delegates. The names of the delegates I am not in a position to give you now, but hope to be able to do so at no distant date.

The Secretary,
Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

CONDITION RE-USE OF HARBOUR TUGS AND THE FEES CHARGED.

Chamber of Commerce,
Rangoon, 15th January, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 17th December, asking for information regarding conditions imposed on vessels making use of tugs and the fees charged at this port.

Enclosed please find copy of letter from the Secretary to the Port Commissioners, which, I trust, gives the information you desire.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ALEX. D. WARREN,
Secretary.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta, 18th January, 1904.

No. 101-1904.

In reply to the further enquiry in your letter of 7th instant, I have the pleasure to enclose for your information, copy of the Rates and General Regulations of the Clive Steam Tug Co., Ld., in which you will find a clause relating to the accidents.

The Agents write as follows:—

" In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, we beg to say that according to our towage agreement, of which we enclose a copy the vessel employing the tug would be liable to any damage done to the tug. For the rest the pilot of the vessel employing the tug being in supreme control of her and of the tug it seems to us that he should be responsible for any accident except such as might be caused by infringement or neglect of his orders."

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. PARSONS,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 26th January, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th instant, enclosing copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Port Commissioners, regarding conditions imposed on vessels making use of tugs and the fees charged at your port, and beg to thank you for the information contained in same.

The Secretary,
Rangoon Chamber of Commerce,
Rangoon.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 26th January, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 18th instant, enclosing copy of rates and regulations of the Clive Steam Tug Co., Ltd., and beg to thank you for the information therein contained relative to the conditions imposed on vessels employing tugs.

The Secretary,
Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 16th February, 1904.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of 11th December last, submitting for an expression of views from this Chamber a form of application for use of the Government Tugs with certain conditions, I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to inform you that in the opinion of those principally interested the conditions proposed are such as to practically prohibit the general use of the tugs.

The Master Attendant,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Colombo Homeward Conference,
Colombo, 11th July, 1904.

Sir,

In accordance with the arrangement made with the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, a meeting of the United Kingdom Liners' Conference was held on the 8th instant, to which were also invited the representatives of Foreign Lines which also use the port of Colombo, to consider the questions which arise out of the Papers relating to the Harbour Tugs which have recently been published by the Government.

The meeting was thoroughly representative of the Merchant shipping using the port of Colombo and may in fact be said to have included all steamer companies, except casual callers and individually owned vessels, who are in the habit of doing regular business with the port and the opinions hereafter set forth may therefore be regarded as forming a definite expression on the question from the Shipping Trade.

The following steamship companies were represented at the meeting :—

P and O. Company, Orient Pacific Company, B. I. Company, Norddeutscher Lloyd, Messageries Maritimes Cie, Bibby Line, Ben Line, City Line, Asiatic S. N. Company, Northern S. S. Company, Bucknall Line, Hamburg-America Line, Hansa Line, East Asiatic Company, Compagnie Nationale, Compania Transatlantica, Societa Veneziana de Navigo, Est and Assiatigue Francais, Harrison Line, Ducal Line, Shire Line, Milburn Line, Brocklebank Line, Anchor Line, Shell Line, Holts Line, Natal Line, Nippon Yusen Kaisha, China Mutual Line, Clan Line, Arch : Currie & Company, Austrian Lloyds, Queensland Line, Glen Line, Deutsch Australesche Dampfschiffs Gesellschaft, Deutsche Ost Africa Linie.

The points which were discussed were as follows :—

(1.) Whether a Tug is, or Tugs are, necessary in Colombo Harbour for the berthing of steamers at all times.

(2.) Whether a Tug is, or Tugs are, desirable as forming part of the proper equipment of Colombo Harbour to be used as required on payment of a fee.

(3.) Whether the present Tugs are of the class necessary for the work, if Tugs are required.

(4.) The proposal to increase the existing Harbour Dues of the Port to cover the cost of upkeep, &c., of a Tug or Tugs.

After a very careful and full discussion the meeting unanimously returned the following replies to these points : —

(1.) That a Tug or Tugs are not necessary.

(2.) But that it is desirable that the services of a Tug should be available in the Harbour for use when required by steamers on payment of a reasonable fee and to meet any emergency which might arise to shipping.

(3.) That the present Tugs are of too elaborate and expensive a type for such services as they are likely to be called upon to perform and that a much less expensive class of vessel would be ample to meet any ordinary requirements which might arise. That it was a useless expenditure of money to retain the services of two Tugs as it was considered that with proper management and care one Tug would amply suffice for a day and night service, provided two crews were employed. It is here pointed out that this opinion is arrived at in view of the decision that Tugs are not absolutely necessary to the Port and that any short period during which a tug might be out of commission for repair should be accepted as a risk, and in the opinion of the meeting a reasonable one, that it would not be urgently required whilst off duty. At any rate the possibility of a Tug being laid up is not considered sufficient reason for the expense of retaining the services of two Tugs.

(4.) A most emphatic protest was recorded against any proposal which the Harbour Board or the Government should bring forward to levy increased Harbour Dues on the shipping in order to cover the services of a Tug or Tugs.

It may be as well here to summarise as concisely as possible

the feeling of the Lines represented at the meeting on the information which is supplied in the Papers referred to above. In a letter dated 29th February, 1904, from the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary to the Chairman of the Harbour Board it appears to be conclusively proved that prior to the actual ordering of the Tugs "Samson" and "Goliath" the Harbour Board, in response to an enquiry from Government, was of opinion that consequent upon the narrow entrance to the Harbour, which the completion of the Northern breakwater would bring about, it would be absolutely necessary to have the services of high powered Tugs to assist vessels in passing through the entrance. This conclusion is evident from the following extracts of Harbour Board minutes, as quoted in the above letter :—

"That in the opinion of the Board, tugs would be equally," "necessary, whether the opening was left at 1,000 feet or reduced to" "800 feet. *With* tugs it was considered that 800 feet was a" "sufficient opening.

"That Government be informed that in the opinion of the" "Board two tugs are necessary, that in view of the fact that the" "Harbour entrance will be restricted to 750 feet in January next," "the tugs should be obtained as early as possible and it is further" "suggested that if delay was likely to occur tugs should be" "chartered for immediate use."

Up to this point therefore it is apparent that the Harbour Board was convinced that there would be risk to shipping so soon as the Harbour entrance was narrowed, and the only inference to draw from their recommendations is that they were of opinion that the services of a tug would be required to assist vessels in actually passing through the harbour entrance. The tugs therefore appear to have been ordered by the Government under the impression that their use would be imperative for this purpose and if such be the case there is no other conclusion to arrive at than that there was no need for the presence of the tugs in Colombo harbour as it is an admitted fact that it would be a source of grave danger to a steamer if it was attempted to bring her through the harbour entrance assisted in any way by a tug.

The Tugs arrived in due course and it may here be incidentally remarked that up to this point neither the Government nor the Harbour Board appear to have considered in what way the cost of their upkeep was to be covered. This question, however, soon arose and was in due course referred to the Harbour Board—the tugs in the meanwhile having been in commission. The matter was duly considered by the Board who came to the conclusion that :

"The serious increase of expenditure involved in the main-"
"tenance of the tugs is not in the opinion of the Board commen-"
"surate with the advantages obtained by their use at the present"
"time, but in the event of their being indispensable when the Graving
"Dock is completed it would be necessary to retain them."

It is therefore clear that the Harbour Board after having put every pressure upon the Government to purchase these tugs, with every despatch, for a purpose for which they have never been used, viz., assisting ships through the entrance to the harbour, and after employing them, as they were, in helping steamers to moor in the harbour were forced to the conclusion that the heavy expense attaching to the tugs was not in proportion to the advantages obtained. It was then sought to justify their presence by the prospect of their being necessary on the completion of the Graving Dock. This point the meeting did not consider it necessary to discuss as to retain the services of expensive tugs for such a considerable period as will elapse before the Graving Dock is available, with only then the possibility of their being essentially necessary, hardly appears to commend itself as a sound proposition.

The Tugs were at work in the harbour for some six months free of charge and during this period a large number of vessels made use of their services, a small fee was subsequently levied and as soon as this was introduced the use of the tugs was practically discontinued. During this period the entrance to the harbour was gradually getting narrower and the bulk of the shipping continued to come and go without any difficulty as to berthing. In the opinion of the meeting therefore the Harbour Board and the Government could not have a more practical or conclusive proof that the regular business of the

port, so far as the mooring or unmooring and general movements of steamers are concerned, can proceed, as it has done since Colombo was a harbour, without the services of the tugs which the Harbour Board so strenuously recomended.

At this juncture the Harbour Board again considered the question of the Tugs in response to further enquiries from the Government, and on March 23rd, 1904, the Chairman informed the Government that the Board was of opinion these powerful tugs were necessary. It may be as well to observe here that this conclusion appears to be at variance with the decision which the Board arrived at in July 1903, when it decided that the advantages of tugs were not commensurate with the large cost of maintenance. The Chairman, in the above letter, further gave it as the opinion of the Board that the use of the tugs should be made compulsory and that their upkeep cost &c., be recovered by increased pilotage fees.

The meeting could not refrain from arriving at the conclusion after reviewing all the circumstances that, these tugs had been ordered in the first instance under a serious misapprehension on the part of the Harbour Board, that various means had been tried to justify their use since their arrival and that all experiments having proved futile the Board finally decided that the only way out of the dilemma was to compel the shipping to utilise their services and to make them bear the cost. In regard to the first part of this decision it is pointed out that there is nothing in the history of the berthing arrangements at this port to warrant any proposal to force steamers to use tugs, and moreover, the use, or not, of a tug is a matter which must be left entirely to the judgment of the Commander of a vessel who is solely responsible for the safety and proper handling of his steamer.

Dealing with the question of covering the cost of maintenance, &c., of the tugs by enhancing the charges to shipping whether by increased pilotage fees, harbour dues or any other source, the meeting as already stated recorded a most emphatic protest against any such procedure. They consider that the correspondence between the Government and the Harbour Board, and the resolutions of the latter

body, and the practical experience of the harbour conditions since the tugs have been in commission, form convincing testimony that these tugs are not essential to the proper handling of steamers in the port and under these circumstances there is nothing to justify any enhancement in the fees already paid.

With regard to the recommendation that the services of a tug should be available in a largely used port like Colombo, the meeting held that such a vessel usually forms part of the equipment of every well found harbour but they were unanimous in the opinion that unless the revenue of the harbour was insufficient from its regular source of income to maintain a suitable vessel, including such fees as it would earn, it was not, in equity, a fair proposal to attempt any increase of the existing charges. The meeting wished the attention of the Chamber of Commerce to be drawn to the fact that so far as it was aware there are no published returns of the Government which would enable a decision to be arrived at as to what are the profits over harbour earnings and it is suggested that the Chamber should apply to the Government for a detailed return of the receipts and expenditure from all sources in connection with the harbour.

The meeting was accordingly of opinion that the event of a tug being provided the general cost of maintenance should be borne out of the present harbour revenue but that fees should be levied on any vessel making use of its services.

It is further requested that a copy of this letter may be placed in the hands of the Hon. the Mercantile Member of Council so that its contents may be made known when the question comes up for discussion in the Legislative Council.

The Chairman.
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. C. ALLEN,
Chairman & Local Secretary,
Liners' Conference.

TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION OF THE DETERMINATION OF MERCANTILE AND OTHER DISPUTES.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 25th March, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by my Committee to ask if you will be good enough to furnish this Chamber with a copy of the Rules adopted at a special meeting of your Chamber held on 22nd instant, which will have the effect of constituting a Tribunal of Arbitration for the determination of mercantile and other disputes.

The Secretary, Yours faithfully,
Bengal Chamber of Commerce, (Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Calcutta. Secretary.

No. 552-1904. Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta, 30th March, 1904.

Dear Sir,

In compliance with the request in your letter of 25th March, I have the pleasure to send you herewith copy of the rules of the new Tribunal of Arbitration as adopted at a special General Meeting of this Chamber held on the 22nd instant. I also send you a copy of the proceedings of the meeting in question from which you will see that certain slight emendations have been made in the original draft. Fair copies will be issued after the Confirmatory Meeting to be held about a month hence.

The Secretary, Yours faithfully,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, (Signed) W. PARSONS,
Colombo. Secretary.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION.

RULES.

INTERPRETATION CLAUSE.

In these Rules the following words have the following meanings :—

(1.) "CHAMBER" means the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

(2.) "MEMBERS" means Members for the time being of the Chamber.

(3.) "TRIBUNAL" means the Tribunal of Arbitration hereby constituted.

(4.) "REFERENCES" means any submission or agreement to refer differences or disputes to the Tribunal.

(5.) "ARBITRATORS" means the persons for the time being eligible to act and acting as Arbitrators, Surveyors and also (unless clearly precluded by the context) Umpires on the Tribunal.

(6.) "PARTY" shall include a form or Company.

SCOPE OF TRIBUNAL.

II. The object of the Tribunal of the Chamber is the determination, settlement, and adjustment of disputes and differences, between parties all, or any of whom, reside or carry on business personally or by agent or otherwise in Calcutta or elsewhere in India or Burmah, relating to trade, business, manufactures, and to customs of trade, by whomsoever of such parties the said disputes and differences be submitted.

CONSTITUTION OF THE TRIBUNAL.

III. The Tribunal shall consist of members or assistants to members as may, from time to time, annually or otherwise, be selected and be willing to serve on the Tribunal. And such persons shall be and they are hereby appointed Arbitrators and be held and deemed to constitute the Tribunal.

IV. The Secretary or Officiating Secretary for the time being of the Chamber shall, and he is hereby, appointed to be and act as the Registrar of the Tribunal and his duties as such shall ordinarily consist of or include the following :—

He shall by himself or his subordinates receive submissions, references or applications to the Tribunal and payment of fees and costs, notify the Arbitrators, give notice of hearing and other

notices to parties, keep a register of submissions, references and applications to the Tribunal and a register of awards, and keep such other books and memoranda and make such returns as the Chamber shall from time to time require : shall render such assistance to the Arbitrators in Arbitrations as they may require and generally shall carry out the directions of the Chamber with regard to the conduct of Arbitrations.

LIST OF ARBITRATORS.

V. The Registrar shall from time to time prepare and cause to be printed a list of Arbitrators, which list shall be printed and circulated to all members and may, if thought fit by the Registrar, be sent on application to persons other than members.

ARBITRATIONS UNDER CONTRACT.

VI. That in every case where a dispute has arisen in relation to a contract which provides, for a decision thereof by the Tribunal an application shall be addressed by either party to the Registrar who, on receipt of such application, shall constitute a Court by nominating in writing two or more Arbitrators, and also in case of need, an Umpire, or if both parties in and by such application so desire, a single Arbitrator to adjudicate on the dispute. The consent of the Arbitrators to act shall be obtained by the Registrar and the Arbitration shall then be conducted in accordance with the following Rules with which are incorporated, where not expressedly or impliedly provided to the contrary, the provisions of the Indian Arbitration Act :—

(*a.*) In making such nomination the Registrar as far as possible shall select persons having a practical knowledge of the subject matter of contracts in question and not interested in the dispute ; and no award shall be invalid nor shall any objection be taken thereto by any party on the ground that any person appointed does not possess such practical knowledge.

(*b.*) If any Arbitrator or umpire decline or fail to act or if he die or become incapable of acting the Registrar may

appoint a new Arbitrator or Umpire in his stead in like manner.

(*c.*) The parties to the Reference and all persons claiming through them respectively, shall, subject to the provisions of any law for the time being in force submit to be examined by the Arbitrators on oath or affirmation in relation to the matters in dispute, and shall, subject as aforesaid, produce before the Arbitrators all books, deeds, papers, accounts, writing and documents within their possession or power, respectively, which may be required or called for, and do all other things which during the proceedings on the Reference the Arbitrators may require, and particularly in the case of references relating to piece-goods or jute shall comply with the Arbitrators' requirements as to production and selection of samples and otherwise.

(*d.*) The Arbitrators may, by the Award, order and determine what they shall think fit to be done by either of the said parties respecting the matters referred.

(*e.*) The said parties respectively shall do all acts necessary to enable the Arbitrators to make a just award and shall not wilfully do or cause or allow to be done any act to delay or prevent the Arbitrators from making an award, and if either party shall do or cause to be done any act to delay or prevent them making an award that party shall pay to the other such costs as the Arbitrators or Umpire shall deem reasonable.

(*f.*) The Arbitrators shall have power to appoint a time and place for the hearing of References, and within seven days of notice in that behalf the parties shall prepare and submit to the Registrar a written statement with regard to the matter in dispute or difference.

(*g.*) No party to a reference shall, without express permission of the Arbitrators, be entitled to appear in person, or by Counsel, Attorney or other Advocate or Adviser, before the Arbitrators or insist on or require the Arbitrators to

hear or examine witnesses or receive oral or documentary evidence, but the Arbitrators at discretion may, through the Registrar, require the parties with or without witnesses to attend before them or before any Committee or Sub-Committee of the Chamber to be examined on or without oath or solemn affirmation.

(*h.*) The Arbitrators shall proceed with the Reference in the absence of any party who being permitted and being desirous to attend shall, after due notice, refuse or neglect to attend without having previously satisfied the Arbitrators that reasonable and sufficient excuse exists for such absence.

(*i.*) The said parties shall pay as and when demanded all fees, charges and expenses incident to the hearing and award of any reference according to the scale prescribed for the time being by the Chamber. Any party making such payment may recover the whole or any part of the sum so paid from any other party ultimately liable to pay the sum.

(*j.*) The Arbitrators may at their own instance at any time or times before making a final award consult, refer to and act on and adopt the advice, recommendations or suggestions of any Committee or Sub-Committee of the Chamber having or exercising special jurisdiction or powers relating to the particular industry, commodity, produce or branch of trade concerned in the Reference, or of any experts whether members or not, and may also at the expense of the parties consult and adopt the advice of Solicitors or Counsel upon any question of law, evidence, practice, or procedure arising in the course of the Reference.

(*k.*) The parties hereto shall in all things abide by and obey the award which shall be binding on the parties and their respective representatives notwithstanding the death of any party before or after the making of the award and so that such death shall not operate as a revocation of the submission.

(*l.*) The Arbitrator shall make their award in writing within fourteen days after entering on the Reference or on or before any later day to which the Arbitrators, by any writing signed by them, may, from time to time, enlarge the time for making the award.

(*m.*) If the Arbitrators have allowed the time or extended time to expire without making any award, or have signified to the Registrar or to the Umpire that they cannot agree, the Umpire may forthwith enter upon the Reference. He shall be at liberty to act upon the evidence taken by the Arbitrators or he may, at his discretion, re-hear the parties and witnesses if any or receive fresh evidence.

(*n.*) The Umpire shall make his award within one week after the original or extended time appointed for the making of the award of the Arbitrators has expired, or on or before any later day to which the Umpire, by any writing signed by him, may, from time to time, enlarge the time for making his award.

(*o.*) No award shall be set aside or varied or attempted to be set aside or varied by reason or on account of any informality, omission, or delay or error of the proceedings in or about the same or in relation thereto or on any other ground or for any misconduct, short of collusion or fraud on the part of the Arbitrators.

(*p.*) Neither of the parties shall bring or prosecute any suit or proceeding whatever against the Arbitrators or Umpire for or in respect of the matters in dispute or any of them, nor any such suit or proceeding (save for the enforcement of the award) against the other party.

(*q.*) The Indian Arbitration Act, 1899, so far as the provisions thereof are not inconsistent with these rules, shall apply to all references to the Tribunal.

(*r.*) The cost of the Reference and Award including fees payable according to the scale aforesaid to Arbitrators shall be in

the discretion of the Arbitrators who may direct to and by whom and in what manner and in what proportion such costs or any part thereof shall be borne and paid and may tax and settle the amount of costs to be so paid or any part thereof and may award costs to be paid as between Solicitor and client.

PROVIDED ALWAYS (1) that in respect of Arbitrations relating to piece-goods or jute the following rule shall, unless otherwise directed by the award, be observed, namely :—

If the seller shall prove he have offered an allowance equal to, or more than, the allowance granted by the Award, then the whole cost of the survey or arbitration shall fall on the buyer. If the buyer have offered to accept an allowance equal to, or less than, the allowance decided by the Arbitration, then the whole cost of the survey or Arbitration shall fall upon the seller.

(s.) All fees payable under these rules shall be payable on demand.

FORM OF SUBMISSION.

VII. All contracts which provide for or contemplate a Reference to the Tribunal of future differences or disputes relating to or arising thereout shall ordinarily contain a submission in or to the effect or Form A. annexed to these rules and where disputes, as above mentioned, arise otherwise than under such a Contract the submission shall ordinarily be in or to the effect of Form B. annexed to these rules and subject to any special provision in such submission the Arbitration shall as far as practicable and convenient be conducted in uniformity with these rules.

NOTICES.

VIII. All notices required by these rules to be given, shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently given if left at the last known place of abode or business of the party to whom the notice is addressed or is sent by post prepaid addressed to him by name at such place of abode or business, and is not returned through the post undelivered, and shall, if sent by post, be deemed to have been given at

the time at which the letter would in the ordinary course be delivered. In the case of a contract entered into by an Agent in Calcutta on behalf of a person having no place of business there, the place of abode or business of the Agent shall be deemed that of the party. Every determination and award of any Court of this Tribunal shall be deemed and taken for all purposes to be the determination and award of the Tribunal.

AWARD.

IX. In cases where a Court of the Tribunal shall consist of a plurality, the decision of the majority shall be deemed and taken as the decision of the Court.

X. The decision or award of every Court shall be prepared by the Registrar and signed by the Arbitrators or two of them, or by the Umpire, and by the Registrar. In the event of the Court consisting of one Arbitrator only, the award of the Court shall be signed by such Arbitrator and by the Registrar. When completed, a copy of the award shall be sent by the Registrar to each of the parties, but the names of the Arbitrators shall not ordinarily be disclosed and such non-disclosure shall not affect the award.

FORM A.

All disputes relating to this contract, shall be referred to the Tribunal of Arbitration of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to be determined in accordance with the rules for the time being of the Tribunal.

In Piece-Goods Contracts the following alternative form may be adopted :—

If any dispute, doubt or question shall arise between the parties hereto regarding this contract or the goods the subject of this contract every such dispute, doubt, or question shall at the option of the party first demanding arbitration be referred either to the arbitration of two impartial European Merchants, Merchants' Assistants or Managers of Mercantile Concerns with power to appoint an Umpire or to Arbitration under the rules of the Tribunal of Arbitration of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. The award shall be final and

binding on all parties concerned and may, at the instance of either party, be made a rule or order of the High Court of Judicature a Fort William in Bengal, in its Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction.

FORM B.

MEMORANDA of AGREEMENT made this (date) between (insert names and address.)

WHEREAS disputes have arisen between the above parties, that is to say :

(State precisely matters in dispute.)

It is hereby agreed as follows :—

The said matters in dispute are hereby referred to the Tribunal of Arbitration of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to be determined in accordance with the rules for the time being of the said Tribunal so far as such rules be applicable to this submission.

TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

REGULATIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE REGISTRAR IN THE CONDUCT OF REFERENCES.

The expression "Rule" or "Rules" in these regulations means the Rule or Rules of the Tribunal as adopted by Resolutions passed and confirmed respectively on
and 1903.

PART 1.

REGULATIONS RELATING SPECIALLY TO JUTE.

1. Arbitrations as to quality or in matters involving an examination, or assortment of the jute or jute cuttings in dispute, shall be held in Calcutta at the Chamber or at such place appointed by the Registrar, and at such times as the Registrar at the instance of the Arbitrators shall from time to time appoint and direct.

2. For the purposes of such arbitration, ten (10) original bales, if the jute be baled, or fifteen (15) original drums, if the jute be in

drums, shall be selected from the parcel by agreement between the buyer and seller, and in case of disagreement the selection shall be made by the Arbitrators or the Registrar or as they or he may direct, and bales or drums so selected shall be accepted as sufficiently representing the jute, the subject of the dispute. The bales or drums so selected shall be brought to the premises of the Chamber in Calcutta, and then the whole or so much as the Arbitrators may deem necessary, shall be surveyed by them.

3. Each bale or drum shall have attached to it a ticket showing the actual gross weight of the bale or drum.

4. The time or times fixed for holding the arbitration shall be notified by the Registrar to the parties who shall have ready for the Arbitrator or for any persons deputed by them the bales or drums selected under Regulation 2.

5. If the jute has been sold with a guarantee of quality expressed in percentages of cut Hessian and/or warp, the bales may be placed before the Arbitrators with the baler's marks cut off. In this case the buyer and the seller may affix a private mark to the bales by which to identify them. This Regulation applies also to bales or jute cuttings sold with a guarantee of quality.

6. In the cases contemplated by Regulation 5 the terms of guarantee only shall be submitted in writing to the Arbitrators, but the contract shall not, unless called for by the Arbitrators or Registrar, be submitted. Full particulars of contract, but without parties' names, may ordinarily be submitted.

7. The Mill at whose instance the arbitration is held shall send the bales or drums selected under Regulation 2 to the Chamber, or such other place appointed by the Registrar; and the arbitrators shall arrange for sufficient experienced assorters to open, select, and weigh the jute after assortment. The assorters must be instructed that they are to obey all directions given them by the Arbitrators or Registrar.

8. To cover the expenses connected with bringing the goods the subject of dispute, to Calcutta, and returning them to the Mill

and any other charges legitimately incurred, the seller shall, if the arbitration be decided in favour of the Mill, be called upon to pay to the Mill a fixed sum of Rs. 20, unless otherwise directed by the Award.

Part II.

REGULATIONS RELATING SPECIALLY TO PIECE-GOODS.

1. The applicant for an Arbitration herein shall present his application in or to the effect of the subjoined form or such other form as may from time to time be prescribed by the Tribunal and with such form shall submit the original Contract or if the original be not in his possession and power, a true copy thereof together with (when requisite or called for by the Registrar the Sale Sample.)

(FORM.)

To Calcutta,...190

The Registrar,
Tribunal of Arbitration,
of the
Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,

PIECE-GOODS ARBITRATIONS.

Under Regulation I, Part II of the Regulations of the above Tribunal, we, the undersigned, hereby apply for the appointment of.*

Arbitrator and the issue of an Award, we give particulars of the dispute below.

We hand you Rs............on account of fees, the original Contract and the sale sample.

Yours faithfully,

______________________ (Sellers)

______________________ (Buyers)

*Here state one Arbitrator or two Arbitrators as the case may be.

Contract No. _______, dated __________________

Goods ________________________________

Basis of Sale ____________________________

Shipment :—

Marks.	Nos.	Quantity.	Steamer.	Marks.	Nos.	Quantity.	Steamer.

Packages available for inspection ____________________________

Buyers' complaints __________________________________

Sellers' Remarks ___________________________________

2. The parties respectively shall be called upon to produce at the office or rooms of the Chamber or at such other place or places and on such days and hours as the Registrar at the instance of the Arbitrators shall from time to time require, such number of packages or bales opened or unopened and such samples duly attested as the Registrar shall likewise require and direct, for inspection and examination by the Arbitrators, or any other person or persons delegated by them or by the Registrar for the purpose of holding such inspection and examination or for assisting therein.

3. The sender's sircar must be in charge of goods sent to the Chamber or elsewhere for examination and inspection as provided by Regulation 2 hereof and where unopened packages or unopened bales are so sent, a cooper must be in attendance at the sender's cost.

4. All references relating to piece-goods shall be under the charge of a special Sub-Committee called the Piece-goods

Sub-Committee consisting of not more than five and not less than three members of the Chamber and the Chairman of such Piece-Goods Sub-Committee shall ordinarily be a member of the Committee of the Chamber.

5. The members of the Piece-Goods Sub-Committee shall ordinarily be appointed annually by the Committee of the Chamber, but the members for the time being of such Sub-Committee shall continue to hold office until successors be in fact appointed and all casual vacancies occurring shall be filled by the nominees of the Committee of the Chamber.

6. The List of Arbitrators referred to in Rule V shall in so far as regards Piece-Goods References be prepared from time to time by the said Piece-Goods Sub-Committee, subject to the approval of the Committee of the Chamber.

7. On receipt of any application under the Rules the Registrar shall immediately report the same to the Piece-Goods Sub-Committee and the Arbitrators and the Umpire or (in cases when the Reference is to a single Arbitrator) the Arbitrator shall be selected by the said Piece-Goods Sub-Committee and the Registrar in nominating Arbitrators and Umpires under the Rules shall give effect to such selection.

8. In all cases falling within Rule VI (*c*) the Registrar shall exercise his functions in consultation and in conformity with the directions of the Piece-Goods Sub-Committee.

9. In the absence of and subject to any special direction by the Piece-Goods Sub-Committee to the contrary, Arbitrators and Umpires shall be selected as far as may be practicable in rotation from the abovementioned list.

10. The Piece-Goods Sub-Committee shall keep and preserve a record of their proceedings in a separate book or register which shall at all times be open to the inspection of all members of the Chamber.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ALL REFERENCES OTHER THAN PIECE-GOODS.

Part III.

1. The List of Arbitrators referred to in Rule V shall in so far as regards references other than piece-goods be prepared and revised by the Registrar from time to time in accordance with and under and subject to the direction, control and supervision of the Committee of the Chamber.

2. On receipt of any application under the Rules the Registrar shall immediately report the same to the Committee or to any Sub-Committee which may from time to time be appointed by the Committee, and the Arbitrators and the Umpire or (in cases when the Reference is to a single Arbitrator) the Arbitrators shall be selected by such Committee or Sub-Committee as the case may be, and the Registrar in nominating Arbitrators and Umpires under the Rules shall give effect to such selection.

3. In all cases falling within Rule VI (*b*)the Registrar shall exercise his functions in consultation and in conformity with the directions of the Committee of the Chamber or Sub-Committee as the case may be.

4. In the absence of and subject to any special directions by the Committee or Sub-Committee as the cas e may be to the contrary Arbitrators and Umpires shall be selected as far as practicable in rotation from the above mentioned List, but nevertheless with due regard to expert knowledge or special experience on part of Arbitrators or Umpires as to the subject matter of each particular References.

GENERALLY.

In all matters relating to References to the Tribunal, the Registar shall obey, abide by, conform to and observe the directions and regulations for the time being prescribed by the Committee or Sub-Committee as the case may be with regard to matters of procedure

and the way in which the duties and powers of the Registrar under the Rules are or ought to be discharged and exercised.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Royal Exchange Building,
Calcutta, 22nd March, 1904.

A Special General Meeting of members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce was held this day.

The following members were present:—

	The Hon. Mr. A. A. Apcar, *President in the Chair.*	*Messrs. Apcar & Co.*
Mr.	C. G. Giro	,, *Ralli Brothers.*
,,	Rivers G. Currie	,, *Mackinon, Mackenzie & Co.*
,,	H. M. Ross	,, *Becker, Ross & Co.*
,,	J. D. Nimmo	,, *Duncan Brothers & Co.*
,,	E. A. Mayall	,, *Kilburn & Co.*
,,	Archy Birkmyre	,, *Birkmyre Brothers.*
,,	J. R. Black	*Bengal Coal Co., Ld.*
,,	J. Khunnah	*Messrs. J. Khunnah & Son.*
,,	John Bathgate	,, *Shrager Brothers.*
,,	O. Hirschhorn	,, *Ullmann, Hirschhorn & Co.*
,,	A. Moll	,, *Moll Schutte & Co.*
,,	H. G. Dewing	,, *Lyall Marshall & Co,*
,,	R. A. A. Jenkins	*Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Co.*
,,	G. H. Taylor	*Messrs. Allen Brothers & Co.*
,,	J. Macdonald	*Guardian, Assurance Co.*
,,	M. Mouradian	*Messrs. Mouradian & Topalian.*
,,	A. S. Mackertich	,, *A. S. Mackertich & Co.*

The Secretary read the Notice convening the meeting as follows:—

Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Royal Exchange Building,

Circular No. 64-1904. Calcutta, 15th February, 1904.

TO ALL MEEBERS OF THE CHAMBER.

PROPOSED REVISION OF THE ARBITRATION RULES OF THE CHAMBER.

Notice (under Clause 59 of the Articles of Association) is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the Bengal Chamber

of Commerce will be held at its Registered Office, No. 2, Clive Street, Calcutta, at the hour of twelve o'clock Noon, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of March, 1904, for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, of adopting, with or without modification, a new set of Rules, printed and already circulated to members, whereby it is proposed to constitute a Tribunal of Arbitration of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the determination of mercantile and other disputes, and to prescribe the constitution and objects of such Tribunal, and to regulate the manner and procedure in which Arbitrations shall be conducted thereby, and also for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, of passing such resolutions as may be then brought forward, for adopting with effect from the 1st day of June next the said new Rules with or without modification, accordingly in supersession of all existing by-laws or rules of the said Chamber relating to arbitrations.

Should any effective resolution to the effect above stated be passsed, the same will in due course be submitted for confirmation, to another special General Meeting to be subsequently convened persuant to Clause 62 of the said Articles.

By order of the Committee,
(Signed) W. PARSONS,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT then said—

Gentlemen,—The question of revising the Arbitration Rules of the Chamber in order to bring the procedure into line with the requirements of the Indian Arbitration Act of 1899, was taken in hand by the Committee in the year 1902. The matter was submitted for consideration and report to a Special Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. A. Forsyth, H. Bateson and E. Henry. The Sub-Committee not only had before them the Arbitration Rules of several of the more important English Chambers of Commerce but were assisted by expert legal advice. The Sub-Committee met with more difficulties than they had anticipated in their task but they eventually submitted a very carefully thought out and comprehensive

scheme for the formation of a Tribunal of Arbitration to supersede the existing Rules. This was approved by the members of the Chamber and the Import Trade and the Indian Jute Mills' Associations. The object which has been steadily kept in view in framing the scheme has been to interfere, as little as possible, with the existing form of procedure but at the same time to bring it into conformity with the law of Arbitrations as it stands at present in India. The scheme in its full and complete form is now submitted to this meeting for the adoption of members under the provisions of Article 59 of the Articles of Association, and it is hoped it will not require any serious alteration for many years to come. The Sub-Committee have placed members of the Chamber under a great obligation in connection with this important matter and our best thanks are due to them for their arduous labours.

The President after pointing out to the meeting some slight verbal alterations which had been made in the rules since copies were circulated to members, proposed the following resolution, which he stated would have to be submitted in due course for confirmation to another Special General Meeting to be subsequently convened, pursuant to article 62 of the Articles of Association of the Chamber:—

"That the new set of Rules including the new set of Regulations attached thereto, referred to in the Notice dated the 15th February 1904, convening this meeting (a copy of which Rules and Regulations is for the purpose of identification signed by the Chairman of such meeting) whereby it is proposed to constitute a Tribunal of Arbitration of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the determination of mercantile and other disputes and to prescribe the constitution and objects of such Tribunal and to regulate the manner and procedure in which Arbitrations shall be conducted thereby, be and the same is hereby adopted (subject only to such modifications as appear in the said copy and are initialled by the said Chairman) with effect as on and from the 1st day of June 1904, in supersession of all existing Rules and Regulations of the Chamber regarding Arbitrations and the conduct thereof but without prejudice nevertheless to the continued applicability of the said existing Rules and Regulations to all

Arbitrations which may have been commenced and not finally disposed of before that date."

This was seconded by Mr. ARCHY BIRKMYRE and carried unanimously.

The PRESIDENT then proposed the following Resolution:—

"That a hearty-vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. E. Henry, Chairman, and Messrs. H. Bateson and A. Forsyth, members of the Special Sub-Committee deputed by the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to consider and report on the revision of the Arbitration Rules of the Chamber, for their labours in connection with the matter which have resulted in the formation of a Tribunal of Arbitration"

This was seconded by Mr. H. M. Ross and carried unanimously.

This closed the proceedings.

(Signed) W. PARSONS,
Secretary.

(Signed) A. A. APCAR,
President.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 26th April, 1904.

DEAR SIRS,

I beg to enclose a copy of rules adopted by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce as constituting a Tribunal of Arbitration for the determination of Mercantile and other disputes, which I am directed to submit to you for your opinion as to whether if adopted by this Chamber they would be likely to come into conflict with the existing local law.

Messrs. F. J. & G. De Saram,
Colombo.

I am, dear Sirs,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Colombo, 9th may, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

As at present advised we do not think that the rules forwarded to us with your letter of the 26th ultimo if adopted by your Chamber, are likely to come into conflict with existing local law.

These rules amount to a provision for reference of matters in dispute to arbitration without the intervention of the Court. This is a proceeding allowed by the law.

So long as parties to any proceeding have voluntarily submitted their differences to the "Tribunal" intended to be constituted and are satisfied with the adjudication that may be pronounced and abide by and act in accordance with it, well and good, and no question can arise. It would be a mere matter of Contract founded on consent.

But, if the aid of the Court be sought in any matter in connection with any order or act of tribunal—say to enforce any award that may be made by the Arbitrators (called a "Tribunal")—then all the requirements of the Law in that behalf provided must be shewn to have been duly complied with.

It appears to us that the Rules as adopted by the Bengal Chamber, will, in regard to certain matters, such as nomenclature etc., have to be adapted to Ceylon.

We think that, as these Rules and the proceedings therein laid down are matters of importance, we should be instructed by your Chamber to place them before Counsel.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. & G. de SARAM.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 17th May, 1904.

Dear Sirs,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 9th instant, which has had the attention of my Committee, expressing your opinion as to how far the Rules constituting a Tribunal of Arbitration for settlement of Mercantile and other disputes submitted to you, are likely to be affected by the Law.

I am now directed to ask you to be good enough to refer the matter to Counsel for opinion, and at the same time to draw attention

to what my Committee consider an important point viz: in the event of two parties agreeing to refer a matter in dispute to the Tribunal, but being dissatisfied at the award given, whether should the assistance of the Court be sought, the proceedings of the Tribunal would be admissible as evidence ?

The copy of Rules referred to is enclosed herewith which kindly return to this Chamber when finished with.

Messrs. F. J. & G. de Saram, Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON.
Secretary.

REVISED CUSTOMS OVERTIME CHARGES.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.
Colombo, 16th February, 1904.

SIR,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee, to ask you to be good enough to furnish this Chamber with a copy of the Government Return showing the amount collected in Customs Overtime Fees at the revised rate of Rs. 4 per hour and how the revenue derived from this source was disbursed during 1903.

The Hon'ble
The Principal Collector of Customs,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

H. M. Customs,
Colombo, 18th February, 1904.

No. 223.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inform you that there is no such Government Return as that of which you ask a copy.

2. In the Blue Book for 1903 the fees drawn by each officer of Customs will appear.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) W. H. JACKSON,
Principal Collector.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 2nd March, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 223 of 18th ultimo, from which I note there is no such Government Return, as asked for in my letter of 16th idem.

I am however directed by my Committee to request you to be kind enough to furnish this Chamber with a detailed statement shewing the total amount collected in respect of Overtime Charges at the revised rate of Rs. 4 per hour and how the income derived from this source has been disbursed during 1903.

The Hon'ble — I have the honour to be, Sir,
The Principal Collector of Customs, — Your Obedient Servant,
Colombo. — (Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

No. 295.

H. M. Customs,
Colombo, 4th March, 1904.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have to submit a report to Government with regard to the working of the Overtime Fund, after the present arrangements have been in force for a full year, and to suggest that you ask Government for a copy of that report.

The Secretary, — I am, Sir,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, — Your Obedient Servant,
Colombo. — (Signed) W. H. JACKSON.
Principal Collector.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 8th March, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No.

295 of 4th instant, and note a report will be submitted to Government with regard to the working of the Overtime Fund after the present arrangements have been in force for a full year.

The Hon'ble
The Principal Collector of Customs,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 12th April, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee, to request that this Chamber may be favoured with a copy of the report to be submitted by the Principal Collector of Customs, regarding the working of the Overtime Fund at the revised rate of Rs.4 per hour and how the income derived from this source has been disbursed during the past year.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

No. 010154

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo 7th June, 1904.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 12th April last, I am directed to forward to you herewith a copy of the report furnished by the Principal Collector of Customs regarding the working of the new scale of Overtime payment to officers of the Customs Department.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. R. SLATER,
For Colonial Secretary.

(*Copy of Report referred to.*)

No. 149.

H. M. Customs,
Colombo, 10th May, 1904.

Sir,

As requested by your letter No. 122 of 9th ultimo, I have the honor to enclose the Report on the working of the New Scale of Overtime Payments in the form desired by the Secretary of State, *vide* his dispatch No. 228 of 10th July, 1903.

2. It will be observed from the report that the total payments to officers amounted to Rs. 102,320·58, while in 1900 the payments amounted to Rs.121,018, in 1901 to Rs.120,232 and in 1902 to Rs.103,502. There has therefore been a substantial falling off in the total fees paid, though there has been no appreciable diminution in the night work. In fact one or more steamers work through the night, (or apply to work through the night thus necessitating the presence of officers at the Customs) practically throughout the year.

3. Not only has the total paid diminished, but it has been spread over a larger number of the Staff, *i.e.* there have been individually a less number of hours worked by the officers, and therefore a smaller sum drawn individually as fees.

4. In view of the small salaries drawn by the officers of the subordinate staff, although the fees in some cases exceed those salaries, I do not think that any officer is paid excessively, due consideration being given to the long hours of work, and the expense of living in Colombo. I would point out here that there are but 5 of the Customs Officers below the Chief Clerk who draw more than Rs. 1,500 (£.100) per annum.

5. The terms of the Colonial Secretary's letter of 24th January, 1903, to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce have been strictly followed as regards the maximum of fees to be drawn by officers.

6. With the exception of the Messageries Maritimes Co., the British India Steam Navigation Co., the North German Lloyd, and the P. & O. Co., all other lines elected to pay for steamers working at Rs. 4·00 per hour. The P. & O. Co., after 3 months also ceased to pay Rs. 6·00 and joined the majority paying Rs.4·00.

Total received at Rs.6. per hour	Rs.34,664·75
do. do. Rs.4. do.	Rs.43,137·75
Sunday Penalties	Rs.18,400·00
Other Charges	Rs.1,425.06
	Rs.97,627·56

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I am, etc,
(Signed) W. H. JACKSON,
Principal Collector.

Return shewing the amount received by the Customs Department in respect of Overtime Charges commencing from 1st. April 1903, to March 31, 1904, together with the appropriation thereof:—

Receipts. 1903-1904.		Payments. 1903-1904.	
Landing & Shipping	Rs.97,627·56	Officers, as per statement	Rs.102,320.58
Coaling	„ 11,136·60	Electric Lighting and Installation	10,011·40
Transhipment	„ 7,136·00	Refund of excess recovery	22·00
Bank Interest	„ 135·18	Interest credited to Benevolent Fund	135·18
			112,489·16
		Balance to credit of Overtime Fund	Rs.3,546·18
	Rs.116,035·34		Rs.116,035·34

N.B.—Includes a sum of Rs.198.75 refunded and placed to the credit of the fund.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo. 14th June, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter No. 01054 of the 7th instant, enclosing a copy of the report furnished by the Principal Collector of Customs, regarding the working of the new scale of Overtime Payments to the Officers of the Customs Department.

I am further directed to request that the Chamber may be favoured with a detailed statement of expenses appearing in the report under the heading of Electric Lighting and Installation.

I have the the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON.
Secretary.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 23rd June, 1904.

No. 012616

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 14th June on the subject of the new scale of Overtime Payments to Officers of the Customs Department, I am directed to forward to you herewith a detailed statement furnished by the Principal Collector of Customs showing the cost of the electric lighting of the Customs Premises from April, 1903, to March, 1904.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.
Colombo.

Detailed Statement showing the cost of Electric Lighting of the Customs Premises from April, 1903, to March, 1904.

Month.		Fort.	New Exports.	Kotchikadde.	Total.
1903	April	979·80	74·85	78·00	1132·65
	May A.	1248·00	74·20	58·00	1380·20

	June	997·20	41·05	62·00	1100·25
	July	1048·20	33·90	152·40	1234·50
	August	1042.20	52·10	115·60	1209·90
	September	1014·60	26·10	82·00	1122·70
	October	1165.80	85·90	78.00	1329·70
	November	1058·40	47·55	82·00	1187·95
	December	1041·60	98·12	86·00	1225·72
1904	January	955·20	68·48	74·00	1097·68
	February	928·20	45·08	58·00	1031·28
	March	1000.68	30.19	78·00	1108·87
	Total ...	12479·88	677·52	1004·03	14161·40

(A) Includes cost of current supplied to electric cranes March and April, 1903, Rs. 285·60 Current for Cranes since paid for from recoveries for use of cranes.

Total as per above statement.....................Rs. 14161·40.

Deduct the amount met from votes Rs. 400·00 per mensem........................... ...." 4800·00

Rs. 9361·40

Add the cost of fitting up electric lights in the office........................ .... ,, 650·00

Electric Lighting and installation............ Rs. 10011·40

CITRONELLA OIL INDUSTRY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

No.04555/04. Colombo, 19th March, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to forward for any remarks the Chamber of Commerce may desire to offer, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, suggesting a scheme to arrest the decline of the Citronella Oil Industry in Ceylon and the imposition of an export cess to meet the cost of working the scheme.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

(*Letter referred to.*)

Royal Botanic Gardens,

No. 40. Peradeniya, 27th February, 1904.

Sir,

In continuation of previous correspondence especially my letter No: 88 of 1900 replied to by your 101/011947 of the 31st August, 1900, I have the honour to report progress and to bring forward certain very important proposals which I venture to think may be the means of arresting the decline of the important minor industry of Citronella Oil Cultivation.

2. In my letter above mentioned I referred to the fact that the two chief desiderata of the industry at that time were (1) improved methods of distillation, and (2) some check to the adulteration already widely practiced.

3. It was intended to issue a full report shortly after the above date, but it was necessary first to deal with the problem of adulteration and its detection and this was handed over to Mr. Kelway Bamber. It has proved to be a work of much time and difficulty, but has at length been rewarded with brilliant success, a test having been discovered which is simple in operation, reliable, and which gives an indication, not only of the presence of an adulterant, but of its amount. A full account of the whole industry, with its chemistry, the adulterations practised and the means of detecting them is in preparation as a section of the "Handbook of Economic Products of Ceylon."

4. When I made my investigation of the industry in 1900, the export trade in Citronella Oil was passing its maximum; over production combined with the low prices caused by adulteration was beginning to tell. Since that time there has been a very heavy fall in the exports, the export for last year being only 71 % of that for 1899. This fall has been partly helped by the competition of the new Java Industry; the European planters in Java have taken up Citronella Oil, they grow the best variety of grass and turn out a pure oil, which has met with much acceptance on the market, and which obtains about 6d per lb. more than ours. At the period of maximum production and for some time afterwards, Ceylon oils were selling at 9d-10d per lb.; the price has now risen owing to the rapid drop in the supply to 1s. 2d.

5. At the low rate quoted, it does not, so far as I am able to discover, pay to grow citronella, unless the oil be adulterated. The single European firm engaged in the cultivation abandoned it a short time ago informing me to this effect—their oils not being adulterated could not be sold at a profit because all Ceylon oils are bought on the supposition of impurity.

6. The present price of the oil is probably remunerative but there can be little doubt that if adulteration is not checked the Ceylon industry must at length be driven out by that of Java; the largest firms preferring to buy pure oil of known quality.

7. It seems to me that we have now a change, thanks to the new test devised by Mr. Bamber, of placing our industry once more upon a sound basis and of re-establishing its reputation for oil of good quality and purity.

8. The adulteration of this oil is so easy and so immediately profitable when prices are good that it has gone on unchecked, except in so far as the use of Schimmel's test by the merchants in Galle has checked it. Schimmel's test if properly applied will in general detect any adulteration exceeding 5 % but in many cases Mr. Bamber has found that it is imperfectly used, and consequently unreliable while it is known that oils which have failed to pass this test have often been exported. Samples of oils sent to Mr. Bamber for analysis by his new test have often as much as 10 % of adulteration and sometimes far more. The usual adulterant is cheap kerosine.

9. Mr. Bamber's test into the details of which it is needless to enter here, not only shows whether adulterants (insoluble in alcohol, as kerosine is) are present, but determines the proportion of them in any sample to within 5 %. It is simple, inexpensive and reliable if properly carried out. Adulterants soluble in alcohol are not detected by it, but the addition of most of these is too expensive and inconvenient while the addition of cheap alcohol is easily detected by the lowered boiling point.

10. I would propose therefore in brief that all oils exported from Ceylon should be examined by Government at the port of shipment by Bamber's test, and that the drums should be then sealed

up, bearing an official seal which shall be a guarantee as to the quality of the oil. These seals might be of two kinds one for "pure" oils, one for "90 per cent pure." If this regulation were brought into force and the fact became known that after a certain date Ceylon oils would be of known quality, I think it probable that they would soon outgrow their present bad name and sell at a price corresponding to their quality. Purchasers will naturally use Bamber's test also.

11. Citronella oil is all exported from Galle and Colombo so that one inspector at each port should suffice. The inspectors should be educated men, who can be trusted to carry out the tests and sufficiently well paid to avoid the probability of their being bribed to pass impure oils. A salary of Rs. 50 per mensem would perhaps secure the right kind of men.

12. The Inspector having received notice that a consignment is ready for export should proceed to the warehouse or godown and draw a sample from each drum of oil in presence of a representative of the exporting firm and then seal up the drum. The samples should be tested at once, and a record made of all tests and results.

13. The Inspector should issue a certificate to the exporting firm to the effect that X drum of oil bearing the shipment mark Y &c., has been tested with such and such results.

14. After testing all drums found to contain "pure" oil, *i.e*, oil not adulterated to a greater extent than 1 % should be sealed by the Inspector with a red seal, bearing a Government Mark and the words "pure oil," while those containing adulterant not exceeding 10 % should bear a green seal with the words "90 % purity." No oil with more than 10 % adulteration should be allowed to be exported.

15. Copies of the regulation should be published in Europe and America and six months notice should be given locally of intention to carry out some such scheme of inspection.

16. Some check on the inspectors will be necessary. The safest perhaps would be to appoint some officer, *e.g*, the Landing Surveyor with power to break the seals and take a second sample and send this to Mr. Bamber. He might pay surprise visits to the godowns at intervals.

17. Appeal from the decision of the inspector should be allowed Mr. Bamber's decision to be final and a fee to be paid for his examination, the fee to be returnable if the inspector prove to be at fault.

18. The apparatus necessary is simple and inexpensive. Supplies of the necessary alcohol should be obtained from Mr. Bamber at frequent intervals, as it is very important that alcohol be of exact standard strength, and it soon changes if exposed to air even for a few moments.

19. The cost of working the scheme would be small probably less than Rs. 2000/- per annum. It might be recouped by an export cess of 25 % *ad valorem*. I propose to raise this question of cess in a general way in a letter.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) JOHN C. WILLIS,
Director, R. B. Gardens.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 6th July 1904.

Sir,

Adverting to your letter, No. 04555/04, of 19th March last, enclosing copy of a letter from the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens suggesting a scheme to arrest the decline of the Citronella Oil Industry in Ceylon, I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to inform you that the question has been submitted to those chiefly interested in the Island in the export of Citronella as well as to the principal import houses in the United Kingdom.

In view however of the diversity of opinion that exists as to how far the scheme put forward by the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens would be workable it is thought his letter can be best answered by submitting for the private information of the Government the individual opinions received, copies of which are herewith enclosed.

The Hon'ble,
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
No. 01379 Colombo, 19th February, 1904.

SIR,

Referring to your letter of 19th January, forwarding copy of a letter received from the Decimal Association London with regard to the adoption of Metric Weights and measures, I am directed to state that a copy of your communication has been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

2. I am to take this opportunity of enclosing for your information copy of a Despatch which was addressed to the Secretary of State subsequent to the receipt of your letter of December 9th, 1902, on this subject.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

(*Despatch referred to.*)

No. 10 Queen's House, Colombo,
Miscellaneous. Ceylon, 10th January, 1903.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Circular despatch of 9th September, 1902, on the subject of the introduction of a Metric System of Weights and Measures throughout the British Empire.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 regarding the action this Government propose to take in the matter and your enquiry as to the views of the Chamber of Commerce and local merchants on the subject, I have the honour to inform you that all the Members of the Chamber are unanimously in favour of the adoption of a Metric system and cordially support the Resolution passed at the meeting of Colonial Premiers in London, although they fully recognise the difficulties which will probably attend the introduction of the New System.

3. The Chamber of Commerce is strongly of opinion that no change should be attempted in the Colonies or abroad until a definite Enactment has been passed in England and that the Metric System if adopted should come into force throughout the Empire simultaneously. I concur in the views expressed by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Right Hon'ble
Alfred Lyttelton, M. P.,
S. S. for the Colonies.

(Signed) W. RIDGEWAY,
Governor.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 23rd February, 1904

Sir,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your No. 01379 of 19th instant, and to thank you for copy of a despatch addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the introduction of a Metric System of Weights and Measures throughout the British Empire.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Oxford Court, Cannon Street,
London, E. C., 9th March, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I duly received your favour of the 20th January and was very pleased to learn therefrom that your Chamber was so fully in accord with our aims.

Your letter has been brought to the notice of Lord Belhaven who has charge of our Bill now before the House of Lords.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of a circular which we are to-day issuing explaining the present position of the movement.

Always thanking you for your interest and support,

F. M. Simpson, Esq.,
Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo,
Ceylon.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) E. JOHNSON,
Secretary.

NEW RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

No. 05944.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 7th April, 1904.

Sir,

As a variety of suggestions have been received by Government from public bodies and individuals for amendment of the Railway Time Table recently issued, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to request you to be good enough to secure the nomination of a representative or representives of your Association to confer in conjunction with representatives from the Planters' Association with the General Manager of the Railway and to make recommendations for improving the Time Table.

2. I am to request that your representatives will put themselves in direct communication with the General Manager of the Railway.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.
Colombo, 8th April, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 05944, dated the 7th April, relative to amendment of the

Railway Time Table recently issued which will have the attention of my Committee.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I am Sir,
Your Obedient Servant.
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 12th April, 1904.

Sir,

Confirming my acknowledgment of your No. 05944 of 7th instant on the above subject, I have now the honour to inform you that same has been laid before my Committee who direct me to express their appreciation of the courtesy extended by H. E. the Governor in asking this Chamber to nominate a representative to confer, in conjunction with representatives of the Planters' Association, with the General Manager of the Railway, relative to making recommendations for improving the existing Time Table.

2. I am directed to inform you that the Chamber will be represented by the Vice-Chairman, Mr, R. Davidson, who will, as requested, communicate direct with the General Manager of the Railway on the subject.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 12th April, 1904.

Sir,

This Chamber having been requested by His Excellency the Governor to nominate a representative to confer, in conjunction with representatives from the Planters' Association with you, relative to making recommendations for the improvement of the

existing Time Table, I am directed to inform you that the Vice-Chairman, Mr. R. Davidson, will represent the Chamber and will take an early opportunity of communicating with you on the question.

The General Manager, I have the honour to be, Sir,
Ceylon Government Railway, Your Obedient Servant,
Colombo. (Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

No. 1276.

Ceylon Government Railway,
General Manager's Department,
Colombo, 13th May, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to proposals for the revision of the train service, I would suggest that they be sent to me so that I may look into and consider them before any meeting takes place, as, obviously, I shall be in a better position to discuss proposals, if I have an opportunity of considering them beforehand.

The Secretary, I am, Sir,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Your Obedient Servant,
Colombo. (Signed) A. G. PERMAN,
Actg. General Manager.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 16th May, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13th instant, with reference to proposals for the revision of the train service and to inform you that expressions of opinion on this point are now being invited from members of this Chamber.

I am further directed to enquire when it is intended to hold a meeting to discuss the proposals.

The Acting General Manager, I am, Sir,
Ceylon Government Railway, Your Obedient Servant,
Colombo. (Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

No. 1331.

Ceylon Government Railway,
General Manager's Office,
Colombo, 20th May, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inform you that when I have received the proposals as suggested in my letter of the 13th instant, and have had time to look into them, I will call a meeting at once.

2. I have to remind you that I have also the Planters' Association delegate's proposals to consider.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. PERMAN,
Acting General Manager.

AUXILIARY LANGUAGE.

Surveyor General's Office,
Colombo, 30th May, 1904.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to invite your attention to the important movement which is now in progress in Europe towards the adoption of an International Language; that is to say, of a language to be chosen by common consent of European nations as the one recognized medium for international relations.

I need not here dwell upon the obvious advantages to be gained by all who have dealings with foreign countries, if such common consent were established with regard to any one language, even were it not the best. My present purpose is first to show that the difficulty, once deemed insuperable, of securing the desired consent is now in a fair way towards solution; and secondly, to point out how the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce can, by the mere expression of its adhesion to the principle, assist in that desirable consummation.

The enclosed circular, marked **A.** shows how the "Delegation for the Adoption of a Universal Language" came into being during the Paris Exhibition of 1900. It also sets forth the official programme of the Delegation, under the title "Declaration," and invites, among others, "all associations of business men" to "express an agreement with the Declaration and to elect Delegates." Enclosed circulars marked **B.** and **C.** give a list of the 180 learned, commercial, and other societies which had, up to the 1st of April, 1904, made their formal adhesion to the principles of the Declaration, and elected their delegates.

It will be seen from circular marked **A.** that the Delegation does not specially advocate any one project, whether new or old. It assumes, justifiably I think, the existence of a wide-spread desire for unification, and merely invites all who are interested to express that desire, as a first step towards its fulfilment. The actual choice of an auxiliary language is to be entrusted to a competent international Association, already in existence independently of the Delegation, which I shall describe later. After the choice has been made, it will be the duty of the Delegation, through a Committee, to propagate by all means in its power the world-wide use of the chosen language.

The competent international body to which I have referred is known as *the International Association of Academies.* It was founded in 1900, and is now, I understand, holding its second triennial meeting in London, under the auspices of the Royal Society. It includes the academies or scientific societies of Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Budapest, Gottingen, Leipzig, London (Royal Society), Munich, Paris, St. Petersburg, Rome, Stockholm, Vienna, and Washington. It holds a general assembly triennially (Paris 1901, London 1904), and is represented in the interval by a Committee. Section 10 of its statutes runs thus :—

"To take into consideration the study or preparation of enterprises and scientific researches of international interest, special international commissions may, on the proposal of one or more of the Associated Academies, be appointed, either by the general

assembly, or, in the interval between two General Assemblies, by the Committee."

It is not the function, nor is it within the power, of any state or association of states to undertake the choice of the language: but, the choice having been once made by so august and influential a body as that mentioned, and widely accepted by the interested public, the support of all civilized Governments may be confidently counted upon, and would assure the complete success of the project.

You, Gentlemen, now have it in your power to add your influential support to this great movement. All that is necessary is for you to forward to the General Secretary, Dr. Leau, a statement signed by your President on your behalf to the effect that you approve the principles of the Declaration, and to name your delegate. The duty of your Delegate will be to keep you informed of the progress made by the Delegation, and to vote by correspondence at the election of the future Committee. A few words will not be out of place as to my own standing in this matter. Although I have not the honour to belong to your esteemed body, I have ventured to invite your attention to a question in which all educated persons are interested parties, and the importance of which will, I trust, be considered my sufficient excuse. I have long taken an interest in the subject of International Language, and have made some study of various schemes that have been proposed. I am in possession of a letter from Dr. Leau, General Secretary of the Delegation, expressing his cordial approval of my avowed intention to make known in Ceylon the objects of the Delegation, and to solicit adhesions.

Should you desire further information on the subject, I shall be happy to wait upon you and render whatever assistance is in my power. Should you feel disposed to name me as your delegate, I shall highly appreciate the honour, and endeavour to fulfil the duties; but in any case it will afford me great joy to see the name of your Chamber added to the honourable list of adherents.

The President and Council,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ALFRED E. WACKRILL,
A. M. I. C. E., Ceylon Survey Dept.

DELEGATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY LANGUAGE.

Sir, **A.**

During the Universal Exhibition in Paris, 1900, several delegates were appointed by various Congresses and Societies to study the question of an international auxiliary language. On January 17th, 1901, they signed collectively the accompanying *Declaration* as to the end in view and the method to be pursued for the attainment of that end. From the day of its foundation the Delegation has steadily increased the number of Societies which have given their adherence to its principles.

The great utility of an international auxiliary language is generally recognized by people engaged in scientific studies, in business with foreigners, and when travelling. It is impossible for all men of science, still less for all men of business, to master many languages. Hence they are obliged either to employ translations or to depend on interpreters or clerks. But such expedients have many disadvantages, and it would be vastly preferable to be able, without any intermediary, to communicate directly and freely with people of all countries, to say nothing of the saving of time, labour, and money.

For this purpose all that is required is that all nations should agree to adopt, in their mutual relations, one common language which would be for each *the only foreign language.* The whole question is whether such an agreement is possible. It is useless to speak of the living language : such a solution is excluded by the interests and the pride of the various nations. Moreover, no national language can, as a matter of fact, aspire to universality, or render all the services which we expect of an international language. But there remain at least two solutions at first sight possible, between which we may choose, and *of which we need not here discuss the relative value.*

On the one hand, a dead language *(e. g.* Latin) might be adopted. It would probably be necessary to simplify the grammar

and syntax, and to enrich the vocabulary with more or less barbarous new expressions, in order to adapt it to modern ideas and practical needs.

On the other hand, an artificial langauge might be constructed. This solution has been suggested, not only by great philosophers, but also by philologists of incontestable eminence, such as BURNOUF, JACOB GRIMM and MAX MULLER. The last of these even declared that such a language could be *much more regular*, *more perfect*, *and easier to learn* than any natural language, and he went so far as to approve of several of the recently proposed systems.

The DELEGATION, in any case, *does not specially advocate any one project, whether new or old.* It proposes simply to unite all partisans of an auxiliary language in an expression of opinion, to represent them, and to arrive, by an international agreement and a kind of arbitration, at a definite and universally accepted solution.

For this purpose it invites all learned bodies, all associations of business men or tourists, to express an agreement with the *Declaration*, and to elect delegates. Every delegate may show a personal preference for any particular solution, provided he observes neutrality when he speaks and acts in the name of the DELEGATION. The DELEGATION is absolutely non-political and non-religious and accepts the adherence of societies devoted to the most diverse tendencies. But, on the other hand, in order to establish and maintain its neutrality, it has been decided from the first not to admit into its body any author of a complete project for the international language, nor to accept the adherence of any society devoted to the propagation of any such project.

It is to the interest of every nation to be represented in the DELEGATION : firstly, because each will profit by the development of scientific and commercial relations which the auxiliary language will foster; secondly, because each nation ought to take part in the establishment of this language, in order that it may be really *international* and *neutral*.

This great reform will inevitably be accomplished, like so many others which were at first treated as chimerical and utopian. It

responds to the ever-increasing need of co-operation and uniformity among nations which as recently produced the *International Association of Academies.* It will extend to the intellectual and moral order the swift and easy means of material communication which now cover the world. It will generalize and absorb all international conventions agreed to in the interest of science and commerce. It will mark a decisive stage in the progress of humanity and civilization.

The Treasurer,
L. COUTURAT
Docteur es Lettres.
7, Rue Nicole, Paris (Ve.)

The General Secretary,
L. LEAU
Docteur es Sciences
6, Rue Vavin, Paris (We.)

P.S.- All are invited to assist in the work of the Delegation :

1. By making it known amongst their acquaintances, and assisting to obtain the adherence of learned societies, Chambers of Commerce, professional Associations and Congresses, and their appointment of delegates. The duties of a delegate entail no expense or travelling. They may be reduced to the mere voting by correspondence at the election of the future Committee (Art. 3 of the Declaration) and of reporting the work of the *Delegation* to the Society which he represents.

2. By subscribing a sum towards the expenses of the propaganda. Any one sending at least 5 francs (4 sh.) will receive the circulars of the *Delegation* regularly.

DELEGATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY LANGUAGE.

DECLARATION.

The undersigned, deputed by various Congresses and Societies to study the question of an International Auxiliary Language, have agreed on the following points.

(1) There is a necessity to choose and to spread the use of an international language, designed not to replace national idioms in the individual life of each people, but to serve in the written and oral relations between persons whose mother-tongues are different.

(2) In order to fulfil its purpose usefully, an international language must satisfy the following conditions:

1st Condition: It must fulfil the needs of the ordinary intercourse of social life, of commercial communication, and of scientific and philosophic relations;

2nd Condition: It must be easily acquired by every person of average elementry education, and especially by persons of European civilization;

3rd Condition: It must not be one of the national languages.

(3) It is desireable to organize a general DELEGATION representing all who realize the necessity, as well as the possibility, of an international auxiliary language, and who are interested in its employment. This Delegation will appoint a Committee of members who can meet during a certain period of time. The purpose of this Committee is defined in the following articles.

(4) The choice of the auxiliary language belongs in the first instance to the *International Association of Academies*, or, in case of failure, to the Committee mentioned in Article 3.

(5) Consequently the first duty of the Committee will be to present to the *International Association of Academies*, in the required forms, the desires expressed by the constituent Societies and Congresses, and to invite it respectfully to realize the project of an auxiliary language.

(6) It will be the duty of the Committee to create a Society for Propaganda, to spread the use of the auxiliary language which is chosen.

(7) The undersigned, being delegated by various Congresses and Societies, decide to approach all learned bodies, and all societies of business men and tourists, in order to obtain their adhesion to the present project.

(8) Representatives of regularly constituted Societies which have agreed to the present *Declaration* will be admitted as members of the DELEGATION.

N. B.—The above *Declaration* is the sole official programme of the Delegation. It constitutes the basis of understanding and course of action of the adherent Societies and Congresses, which are enumerated in the circular on the *State of the Delegation*.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 31st May, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 30th instant, addressed to the President and Council of this Chamber with enclosures relative to the adoption of an International Auxiliary Language, which will receive the attention of my Committee.

A. E. Wackrill, Esq.,
A. M. I. C. E., Ceylon Survey Dept.,
Colombo.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 7th June, 1904.

Dear Sir,

In further reference to your letter of 30th ultimo, with regard to the adoption of an International Language and my reply of 31st idem, I am directed to inform you that my Committee although disposed to consider the subject sympathetically are not prepared to commit the Chamber to the nomination of a delegate without taking the opinion of its members at a General Meeting which at the present juncture it is considered would be rather premature.

My Committee would however appreciate any information that you might be able to furnish them from time to time with regard to the progress made in securing the consent of European nations to the adoption of a common language as suggested.

A. E. Wackrill, Esq.
Colombo.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF GERMANY WITH THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 11th January, 1904,

Sir,

Adverting to my letter of 17th October, 1901, forwarding a copy of a despatch and its enclosures on the above subject received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies I am directed to enclose herein a copy of a telegram received from the Secretary of State intimating that the German Government have issued a notice prolonging existing arrangements indefinitely.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

(Copy of Telegram referred to.)

"Referring to my Circular Despatch 12th September, 1901, commercial negotiations German Government have issued notice prolonging existing arrangements indefinitely."

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 12th January, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour, under instructions from my Committee, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, with copy of telegram received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies intimating that the German Government have issued a notice prolonging existing arrangements indefinitely.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 10th February, 1904.

Sir,

Adverting to my letter of 11th January, I am directed to enclose herein for your information a copy of a despatch and its enclosures received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies relative to the Commercial relations of Germany with the British Empire.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

(*Despatch referred to.*)

Downing Street,
9th January, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to my predecessor's Circular despatch of the 12th September, 1901, I have the honour to transmit to you copies of a notification of the Bundesrath which has been issued prolonging after 31st December, 1903, the provisions contained in their last notification of 11th June, 1901, respecting German commercial relations with the British Empire, and of a memorandum on the subject prepared by the Commercial Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy at Berlin.

I have caused the informotion contained in these papers to be conveyed to you by telegram.

The Officer Administering
the Government of
Ceylon.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Most Obedient Humble Servant,
(Signed) ALFRED LYTTELTON,
Secretary.

Enclosure 1 in Circular dated 9th January, 1904.

MEMORANDUM

The " Reichsanzeiger" of this evening publishes the Text of the Law, recently passed by the Reichstag, which authorized the

Bundesrath to grant most-favoured-nation treatment to the British Empire up to the 31st of December, 1905, a translation of which has already been forwarded.

Below that Law the formal Notification of the Bundesrath is now published which, in the present instance, does not even mention by name any country as exempted from the benefits of such treatment, but it provides that the same conditions, as prevailed in the last similar Notification of June 11th, 1901, shall continue to be in force after December 31st, 1903, until further notice. A copy and translation of this Notification are enclosed herewith.

It will be remembered that the Notification of 1901 excluded Canada from the privilege of most-favoured-nation treatment. Under the wording of the new Notification, therefore, the Dominion of Canada still continues to be exempted, as before.

No action is taken, at present, to exempt the imports from the Cape and New Zealand from the benefits of most-favoured-nation treatment in view of the preferences recently accorded by those countries to goods imported from Great Britain.

(Signed) WILLIAM S. H. GASTRELL.

Berlin,

December 30th, 1903.

Enclosure 2 in Circular dated 9th January, 1904.

NOTIFICATION

CONCERNING THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

(Of December 30th, 1903.)

By virtue of the foregoing Law the Bundesrath has decided to prolong the duration of the provisions, contained in the Notification of June 11th, 1901 ("Reichsgesetzblatt," page 205), beyond the 31st of December, 1903, until further notice.

For the Imperial Chancellor,

(Signed) GRAF VON POSADOWSKY.

Berlin,

December 30th, 1903.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 12th February, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th February, 1904, together with the enclosures therein referred to.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AT LIEGE.

Colombo, 18th March, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that an Universal and International Exhibition is to be held at Liége, Belgium, next year commencing in April and lasting till November, and that I have been requested by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium to approach the Chamber of Commerce in Ceylon and invite the co-operation of the Chamber.

I shall, therefore, feel obliged if you will be pleased to bring the above to the notice of the Members of your Chamber and favour me with the views of your Committee in this matter.

Under separate cover, I have the honour to send you for the information of your Chamber a booklet (these are available at this Consulate and could be had on application) giving full details, rules, classification, and the general programme of the Exhibition and also a poster relating to same.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. REDEMANN,
Consul for Belgium.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 22nd March, 1904.

SIR,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 18th instant, calling the attention of this Chamber to the Universal and International Exhibition to be held at Liége, Belgium, in 1905.

In reply I am directed to enclose for your information copy of a letter addressed to the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, on 15th December last, embodying the opinion of my Committee as to the advisability of the Colony participating in the Exhibition.

A. Redemann, Esq.,
Consul for Belgium,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

(*Copy of letter referred to.*)

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 15th December, 1904.

SIR,

I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th instant, enclosing copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies relative to the International Exhibition to be held at Liége, in April 1905, and asking for an expression of opinion from the Chamber as to whether the Colony should participate in the Exhibition, and in reply am directed to say that, in view of the undertaking already entered into by the Colony with regard to the St. Louis Exhibition in 1904, my Committee are of opinion that it would be unwise for the Colony to incur any obligation in respect of the Exhibition to be held at Liège 1905.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 10th May, 1904.

No. 08766.

Sir,

I am directed to forward for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the accompanying copy of correspondence with the Consul General for Belguim at Bombay, regarding the proposed Universal and International Exhibition, to be held at Liége in April, 1905.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
Signed) E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

(Correspondence referred to.)

Consulat de Belgique.

Bombay, 26th Mars, 1904.

Monsieur le Secretaire,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connâitre qu, une Exposition Universelle et internationale, á laquelle ont étè conviés les principaux pays, s'ouveira à Liège au mois d'Avril 1905.

L'entreprise est placeé sous le Haut patronage du Roi, la présidence d'honneur de I. A. R. Mgr. le comte de Flandres et la présidence effective de I. A. R. Mgr. le Prince Albert de Belgique.

Je n'ai pas besion d'insister, Monsieur le Secrétaire, sur l'intérêt special que mon Gouvernement attacherait à ce que les producteurs de l'île de Ceylon y prennant part en grand nombre et je vieus solliciter votre bein veillant intervention pour arriver à cette fin,

Le généreux appui que le Gouvernment Colonial a accordé aux planteurs qui se sont fait représenter à la world's fair de St. Louis a permis au Gouvernment du Roi d'espérer que l'éclat de l'entreprise liégeoise serait rehaussé par le concours does exposants Ceylanais. Les documents, que j'ai l'honneur de vour faire parvenir en même jemps que la présente communication, vous mettiont à même d'apprécier les conditions et avantages de l'exposition projetée.

En vous adressant par avance tous mes remercìments pour la precieuse collaboration que le Gouvernement de Ceylon voudra bien me prêter dans cettes circonstances je saisis avec empressement cette occasion de vous reiterer, Monsieur le Secrétaire, les assurances de ma considération la plus distinguée.

(Signed) M. GERARD.

Monsieur le Secretaire,
du Gouvernement Colonial de Ceylon,
Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
No. 07327. Colombo, 11th April, 1904

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th March, regarding the Universal and International Exhibition to be held at Liége in April, 1905.

2. In reply, I am to convey to you the thanks of the Ceylon Government, for the information you have furnished, and I am to inform you that this Government does not propose to participate in any more exhibitions for the present.

The Consul General for Belgium,
Bombay.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

Consulat de Belgique, Bombay, 18 Avril, 1904.

Monsieur le Secrétaire,

J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir votre communication du 11 de ce mois par laquelle vous voulez bien me faire connaitre que le Gouvernement Colonial n'a pas l'intention de se faire représenter à la prochaine Exposition Universelle et internationale de Liège.

En vos exprimant tous mes regrets pour cette dècision qui privera la World's fair projetée d'une contribution qui n'eut pas manqué d'absorber un tres-vif intéret, Je me dois pourtant pas vous dissimuler combien, à défaut toute Représentation *officielle*, mon Gouvernement se fût félicité de voir les entreprises agricoles ou industrielles de l'île participer *individuellement* au concours.

Je saisis avec empressement cette occasion de vous renouveler, Monsieur le Secrétaire, les assurances de ma considération tres-distinguée.

Monsieur (Signed) M. GERARD.

M. le Secretaire Colonial

du Gouvernement de l'ile de Ceylon,

Colombo.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,

Colombo, 12th May, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th May, 1904, enclosing copy of correspondence with the Consul-General for Belgium at Bombay on the above subject.

The Hon'ble

The Colonial Secretary,

Colombo.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,

Secretary.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

No. 3879. Colombo, 17th March, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose for your information extracts from letter dated 27th July, 1903, from Messrs. H. A. Kirk and S. H. C. Hutchinson (delegates for India and Ceylon) to the Under Secretary of State for India on the subject of the International Telegraph Conference held in London in 1903.

The Secretary,

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,

Colombo.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) A. R. SLATER,

for Colonial Secretary.

(Copy of Extracts referred to.)

4. Among the propositions submitted for consideration at the London Conference the most important, as far as British India and Ceylon are concerned, are :—

1. Belgium's proposed alteration of Regulation VIII by which the use of the Official Vocabulary as regards the selection of words for Code Language would become compulsory.

1. This was the subject of very prolonged discussion extending over four sittings—*vide* Proces Verbaux, Commission du Reglement, 1st, 5th, 7th and 9th sittings. France, Belgium and the Cable Companies were the principal advocates in favour of the measure while Great Britain and British India, in accordance with their instructions, strongly opposed it. The objections to making compulsory the use of the Official Vocabulary were fully and very forcibly stated by the British Delegate and, ultimately, Belgium withdrew her proposal, and, as a solution of the difficult position in which the Telegraph Union then found itself proposed a revised Regulation VIII which, after amendment by Germany, stood as follows and was unanimously agreed to:—

ARTICLE VIII.

"1. Le langage convenu est celui qui se compose de mots ne formant pas des phrases comprehensibles dans une on plusieurs des langues autorisees pour la correspondance telegraphique en langage clair.

"2. Les mots qu'ils soient reels on artificiels doivent entre form's de syllabes pouvont se prononcer selon l'usage d'une des langues allemande anglaise espagnole, francaise, hollandaise italienne, portuguise ôn latine

"3. Les mots du langage convenu ne peuvent pas avoir une longeur superieure dix caracteres selon l'alphabet Morse.

"4. Les combinaisons qui ne remplissent pas les conditions des deux paragraphes qui precedent sont considerées comme appartenant au langage en lettres aant une signification secrete et taxees en consequence. Tourtefois celles qui seraient formées par la reunion de deux on plusieurs mots du langage clair, contraire a l'usage de la langue ne sont pas admises."

This result must be considered highly gratifying to Great Britain and India, having in view the best interests and the wishes of the commercial community and the public generally. The Official Vocabulary is practically dead and the question of the introduction of this or of any similar vocabulary cannot, so long as the new Regulation remains in force, be revived. In future, any combination of letters not exceeding ten in number, will be passed as a code word provided it is capable of pronunciation according to the custom of any of the 8 languages to which code words have hitherto been limited. The grant of these facilities will not, of course, admit of combinations being formed by the running together of short *bona fide* words. Another practical effect of this decision should be to put an end once and for all to the constant disputes with the public as to the admissibility or otherwise of doubtful code words. For some years past it is stated that words of this description have irregularly been accepted as code words by most of the Cable Companies so that the effect of the present decision, as far as they are concerned, will be merely to regulate an irregular practice.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 18th March, 1904

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of yours of 17th March, 1904, enclosing extracts from a letter to the Under Secretary of State for India on the above subject.

The Hon'ble
The Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

THE PHILADELPHIA COMMERCIAL MUSEUM.

Philadelphia, Pa., U. S. A. 30 March, 1904.

Dear Sir,

As a result of the honour conferred upon me in electing me an honorary member of your esteemed association, I have naturally had more than ordinary interest in the Commerce of your City and Island.

The Museum of which I am Director has, through its Bureau of information, frequently called the attention of Merchants, Importers and Manufacturers in the United States to the commercial opportunites of Ceylon.

I am anxious to do what I can to bring about still closer and more cordial relations between the business men of your country and my own. In furtherance of this aim the Commercial Museum will maintain a special branch office in the Manufactures Building at the St. Louis World's Fair, for the convenience of visiting merchants and manufacturers from abroad.

I wish to extend a cordial, personal invitation to all members and friends of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to avail themselves freely of this branch and of the services of the Commercial Museum in Philadelphia as well. You will place me under still greater obligations to you if you will take means of making this known as widely as possible in Commercial circles generally in your City.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. P. WILSON.
Director

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 18th May, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of 30th March, contents of which have had the careful attention of my Committee, and to inform you the same have been forwarded to the Local Press for publication as being the best means of furthering the object you have in view.

W. P. Wilson Esq.,
Director,
The Philadelphia,
Commercial Museum,
Philadelphia, U. S. A.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON
Secretary.

WOOD SUITABLE FOR TEA BOXES.

Colombo, 21st March, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for favour of your opinion copy of report No. 13 from Mr. Lewis, the Assistant Conservator of Forests of this Province.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) E. SUETER,
for Government Agent.

From the Hon'ble the Government Agent, W. P.,
To the Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,

(*Report referred to.*)

On Circuit, Mirigama,
12/16 February, 1904

Sir,

My attention having been drawn to a newspaper paragraph pointing to a possible famine in Tea boxes, I have the honour to bring to your notice a few points respecting our local woods that possibly might be worth reporting to the Chamber of Commerce and thereby assist a large number of Planters who at present are forced into a position of some difficulty in getting suitable packages at rates commensurate with the present prices of Tea.

2. There is in Ceylon a wide spread prejudice against the use of country woods for Tea boxes, but the prejudice is due chiefly to ignorance on the one hand, and the dishonesty of native dealers in Tea boxes on the other, as I will explain.

3. The buyers in Colombo contract with certain Tea box traders. These buyers, as might naturally be expected, do not know one country wood from another, and so are entirely at the mercy of the trader. The trader in turn gets his supply from the middle-man, and the middle-man is supplied by his agent; the agent in 90 % of cases being a villager with a small capital on which he trades.

4. The *modus operandi* then is this:—The villager buys up a few Cotton, Lunumidella and Hal trees to form a nucleus. He applies to me for, say 100 more trees, specifying probably as many as 12 kinds in his application. He fells these, and adds what he has bought to what he had already, the nucleus—and takes it down the river to the middle-man and there the latter sells it to the agent. The agent has meantime obtained stocks from sundry other middle-men and is now in a position to sell to the Tea box contractor a very substantial parcel of wood and in all probability, is selling it as Hal or Lunumidella wood, knowing full well that woods of this kind will be readily bought, while in his whole parcel, not 10 % of such woods are contained in it.

5. But this is not the only evil. The village agent of the middle-man sells wood that has been cut at all times and seasons. The bark has long since gone, and only an expert could tell, if the wood is Hal or Badulla. The standard is so long as the log does not sink in water, it will sell as a Tea box wood, and to secure that sale, call it by a name that is recognised as a good wood. There is nobody to dispute the statement, and the agent is quite safe.

6. It is obvious from this, that woods of all kinds, all weights, all stages of composition or decomposition alike are put on the market with the result that the Planter finds he cannot get two boxes to weigh alike or, the London buyer says his tea is tainted. The reasonable consequence that the Planter objects to Ceylon woods and believes that they are all equally bad and to be carefully avoided. The natural result of this prejudice, in its concrete form, is that Ceylon is importing wood from other places to its own pecuniary loss, when it could be self-supporting.

7. We have upwards of 40 kinds of woods, that properly worked will serve the Planters' requirements satisfactorily, and at a low price. All that has to be done is, to secure parcels of wood of the same kind of the same duration of seasoning, so as to insure immunity from the present ruinous policy of mixing up woods of all sorts, raw or dry.

8. There is no difficulty in setting apart 10,000 trees of different kinds, by numbering them and cataloguing the whole, and for these, tenders to purchase might be called for, the catalogue would give the analysis of the kinds of trees and their numbers, while the lists drawn up as the trees are numbered, would fix the species to its index number.

9. In this way the Colombo Agent would be safeguarded provided he employed his own agent to secure his purchase and this I need not suggest schemes for, or in respect of.

10. The prices of most of the woods I refer to are under 10 cents per cubic foot, or allowing 16 % for waste in cutting, the price is still less than ½ a cent per superficial foot of ½ inch thickness without cost of sawing and transport.

11. Many of the forests of the Pasdum Korale, and still more in the headwaters of the Kelani river or those of the Kalu-ganga afford enormous stocks of suitable woods, for tea boxes, and I would be glad to know at this time of possible crisis in this industry of imported wood, if the course I have outlined might receive Government sanction.

12. I especially desire that this letter may be sent to the Conservator of Forests for his opinion and for the sake of due publicity, I submit that with the Conservator's permission and your assent, that it may be transmitted to the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce for such action as he and they may consider desirable to take.

The Hon'ble,
The Govt. Agent, W. P.,
Colombo.

I have the honour, &c.,
(Signed) F. LEWIS,
Assistant Conservator of Forests,

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 23rd March, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, enclosing copy of report No. 13 from Mr. F. Lewis,

the Assistant Conservator of Forests, W. P., which will have the attention of my Committee.

The Hon'ble
The Govt. Agent, W. P,
Colombo.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 20th April, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of 23rd ultimo, I have the honour under instructions from my Committee to inform you that copy of Report No. 13 from Mr. Lewis, the Assistant Conservator of Forests, W, P., forwarded with your letter of 21st ultimo, has been circulated to all members of the Chamber for their information.

The Hon'ble
The Govt. Agent, W. P.,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH EURASIONS ARE SHIPPED AS SEAMEN FROM INDIAN PORTS.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Royal Exchange Building,
Calcutta, 13th April, 1904.

No. 613-1904.

Sir,

I am directed by the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 282 Marine, of 17th February, 1904, dealing with the conditions under which Eurasians are at present shipped as seamen from Indian Ports.

2. You state that in consequence of the many applications for relief and repatriation which have been received by the Secretary of State for India from Eurasians who have been shipped at Eastern Ports under the ordinary articles applying to British sailors, it has

become necessary to reconsider the question of the conditions under which Eurasians may be shipped as seamen, and you ask the Committee for an expression of opinion as to the desirability of securing the application of sections 125 and 185 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894, to seamen of the Eurasian class. The Committee note that the sections referred to apply to agreements with and the relief and repatriation of lascars or other natives of India.

3. The Committee have before them copy of the resolution of the Government of India, No. S. R./1735 M., of 29th March, 1901, in which the opinion is given that the words "native seamen" as used in section 29 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act V of 1883, should not be held to include "statutory natives" but should be read in the ordinary meaning of the word native as referring to the indigenous as opposed to the European or Eurasian inhabitants of India. Under the terms of this resolution the law as it at present stands does not preclude the apprenticing of Eurasians to sea service or prevent their being shipped as seamen on merchant vessels on the same terms as Europeans. In accordance with this interpretation of the law Eurasians have been shipped as seamen under European articles and have consequently come under European conditions of employment which do not include the right of being repatriated or returned to India. Since the receipt of your letter the Committee have been in communication with those members of the Chamber directly interested in shipping, among whom there is a general consensus of opinion against any restrictions being placed on the employment of Eurasians as seamen or apprentices and consequently against any alteration in the interpretation of the law as it at present stands.

4. The Committee themselves are strongly opposed to the proposal to secure the application of sections 125 and 185 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 to seamen of the Eurasian class. The difficulties referred to in your letter appear to have arisen in consequence of the Secretary of State interpreting the law in a different manner to that in which it has been interpreted by the Government of India, and if the home interpretation could be brought into line with that on this side, and acted upon accordingly, these difficulties

would probably disappear. There is no reason, in the view of the Committee why an Eurasian shipped under European aricles should claim repatriation any more than an European, and the Committee cannot but think that the trouble has arisen from the action of only a small fraction of those shipped. The Committee do not think that any case has been made out for an alteration in the law and the only result of any such alteration as it is now proposed to make would be to close the mercantile marine as an avenue of employment for Eurasians generally, as not only would they not ship, but as the Committee have good reasons for stating they would not be taken by ship owners if they had to be repatriated. At the same time there might be genuine cases of distress which might be dealt with in the manner in which *distressed* British seamen are dealt with at this and other ports, *viz.*, by being sent home at the expense of the Board of Trade. In like manner the cost of sending similar cases back to India might be borne by the Government of India although in no case could it be claimed as a right.

The Secretary to the
Government of Bengal,
Marine Department.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant,
(Signed) W. PARSONS,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 9th March, 1904.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your circular letter, No. 613-1904, of the 13th ultimo addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Marine Department, relative to the condition under which Eurasians are shipped as seamen from Indian Ports.

The Secretary,
Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Calcutta.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

NEW SURVEY OF CUSTOMS PREMISES.

The Ceylon Wharfage Company, Limited,
Colombo, 16th January, 1904.

No. 426/65

DEAR SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 14th May last and previous correspondence regarding a new Survey of the whole Customs premises, I shall be glad to learn if anything has yet been done in this direction.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
J. A. RIDGE,
Manager.

The Secretary,
The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 18th January, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter of 16th instant, regarding a new survey of the Customs Premises, I beg to inform you that on certain inaccuracies being pointed out in the tracing furnished by the survey office in August last, Government replied that in view of certain improvements at the Customs which were being carried out and were approaching completion, it had been decided to postpone the amendment of the map in question till the works in progress were completed.

I understand the works referred to are still incomplete.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary

The Manager,
Ceylon Wharfage Co., Ltd.,
Colombo.

AVERAGE PRICES OF THE PRODUCE.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 7th January, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1586 of the 16th ultimo, I have now the honour to inform you that the following have been about the average prices of the articles enumerated in your list for the year ended 31st December, 1903.—

Cocoa	...	per cwt. Rs. 38·04.
Coffee	Liberian ...	no records.
	Native ...	no quotation.
	Plantation ...	per cwt. Rs. 57·16
Chinchona Bark	...	per lb. 7 cents.
Coir	Fibre ...	per cwt. Rs. 6·00
	Rope ...	no records.
	Yarn ...	per cwt. Rs. 10·50
Coconut Oil	...	per cwt. Rs. 16·03
Cinnamon Plantation	...	per lb. 45 cents.
Cinnamon Wild	...	no records.
Horns, Deer and Sambur	...	no records.
Plumbago,	...	per ton Rs. 265·25

2. The average prices of tea will be sent hereafter.

The Hon'ble,
The Principal Collector of Customs,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 13th January, 1904.

Sir,

Supplementing my letter of 7th instant, which is returned herewith, I have now the honour to inform you I have readjusted the average price of Plumbago for the year ended 1903, as follows :—

Large and Ordinary Lumps Plambago..............Rs. 400·00 per ton
Chip, Dust and Flying Dust......... ....Rs 150·00 per ton.

The Hon'ble,
The Principal Collector of Customs,
Colombo.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary,

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 20th January, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

In continuation of my letter of 7th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the average price of Tea during last year was 32 cents a lb.

The Hon'ble
The Principal Collector of Customs,
Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

ALTERATION IN THE TONAGE SCALE FOR COPPERAH.

Colombo Homeward Conference,
Colombo, 14th June, 1904.

DEAR SIR,

I have been directed by the members of this Conference to ask that the tonnage scale, as laid down by the Chamber, for Copperah in bags may be altered from 12 cwts. "shipped" to 12 cwts. to the ton "delivered."

I may mention that in addition to all the lines to the United Kingdom represented by this Conference the Continental Lines are also desirous that this change should be made.

It is not considered that the alteration will be, in any way unfavorable to the interests of shippers and as it is important that

the change should come into force by the 1st August next, my Conference will be obliged if your Committee can make an early decision in the matter.

The Secretary,
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. C. ALLEN,
Local Secretary.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 21st June. 1904.

DAAR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 14th instant, requesting that the Chamber of Commerce tonnage scale for Copperah in bags may be altered from 12 cwts. "shipped" to 12 cwts. "delivered."

I am directed to inform you that my Committee approve of the suggested alteration, and it is proposed to notify members of this decision with a view to the change in the scale coming into force from 1st August next, subject to confirmation at the next General Meeting of the Chamber.

The Secretary,
Colombo Homeward Conference,
Colombo.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. SIMPSON,
Secretary.

SUMMERY OF LONDON VOTING RE TEA CESS

CEYLON ASSOCIATION IN LONDON, 10/6/04.

In Favour of 50 cents		(Contd.)		In favour of Abolition.	
R. W. Wickham	360	A. F. Harper	900		
F. G. A. Lane	297	Namunukula Tea Company	1,304	C. S. & C. F. Haddon	800
G. J. Jameson	1,000				

Panawatte, Yogama 1,088
P. C. du. S. Leather 200

2,945

In Favour of 40 cents.

J. F. Rea	145
C. E. G. Hatherall	240
W. F. Laurie	400
J. W. Holt	130
J. Hamilton	246
Eastern Produce and Estates Co., Ltd.	10,981
Ceylon Tea Plantations Co., ...	9,312
Digalla Tea Co.,	600
Central Tea Co.,	908
Ceylon Proprietory Co., ...	2,283
Kyntire Tea Ests.	876
East India and Ceylon Co.,	1,554
Gnl. Ceylon Co.,	5,508
Dimbulla Valley Co., ...	2,185
Asso. Tea Ests. Co.,	1,737
Maturata Tea Co.,	289
Goomera Tea Estates Co.,	692
Mipitikanda and Marakona Estates	604
Anglo Ceylon and General Co.,	6,200
W. H. Tindal Co.,	2,200
A.Bryans	12,000
Fernlands Tea (say half)	260
	59,350

In Favour of 30 cents.

Lethenty Tea Estates Association	1,030
S. Shelley	230
O. S. Armstrong	620
Mahayale Tea Ests.	650
Portmore Tea Co.,	516
Korale Tea Est. Co., ...	1,318
Duff Ests Co., Nayabedde Est Co., Rosehaugh "	7,146
Alliance Tea Co.,	2,711
Rangalla Tea Co.,	716
Imperial Ceylon Co., ...	1,782
Gangwarily Estates Company	941
Spring Valley Coffee Co.,	1,934
Ouvah Coffee Co.,	2,237
Col. Com. Co.,	1 835
Hunasgeria Tea Co.,	763
Mooloya Tea Co.,	968
Carolina Tea Co.,	2,431
Scottish Trusts Loan Co.	2,093
C. J. Scott	370
Yatiyantota Ceylon Co., ...	3,040
A. Gibson Est. Co.,	2,343
Kandapolla Tea Co., ...	2,390
Nahalma Tea Co.,	446
Poonagalla Valley Co., ...	1,273
Scottish Ceylon Co.,	1,720
Highland Tea Co.,	591
Burnside Tea Co.,	1,144
Bandarapolla Ceylon Co.,	788
Mt. Vernon Tea Co.,	755
K. V. Tea Asstn.	1,238
Ederapolla Tea Co.,	1,082
Consolidated Estates Co.,	3,572
A. N. Scott	400
Panawal Tea Co.,	590
Fernlands Tea Co., (say half)	260
Bogawantalawa Co., (say half)	1,141
New Dimbulla Co.,	2,340
	57,608

In Favour of 20 cents.

Ukuwella Estates Co., ... 400

Albion & Caledonian Estates	544
George Allen	720
J. L. Anstruther	750
Vellikelle Tea Co.,	540
Tyspane Tea Co.,	800
Balmoral Ests Co.,	997
Lindoola Tea Co.,	325
Punduloya Tea Co.,	1,895
Talawakelle Ests.	906
Craighead Tea Co.,	896
Lanka Plantations Co., ...	2,391
United Planters Co., ...	6,100
H. A. Clarke	460
J. A. Campbell	264
Standard Tea Co.,	2,510
Hadden & others	375
Elphinstone Trust Ests.	915
Fairlie & Campbell	307
F. A. Fairlie	250
A. Brooke	123
Exectr. of W. Rollo	250
do	559
do	121
do	241
do	186
do	314
Morris & Hadden	220
J. F. Clerk	420
Cey., Land & Produce Co.,	2,450
T. Fairhurst	620
Bogawantalawa Tea Co., (say half)	1,141
	29,390

Summary.

	Acres.
In favour of 20 cts.	400
do. 30 "	57,608
do. 40 "	59,350
do. 50 "	2,945
do. Abolition	29,390
	149,693

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COLOMBO HARBOUR BOARD.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Colombo Harbour Board, held on Monday, 25th January, 1904, at 12 noon.

Present :—The Hon. Mr. W. H. Jackson (Chairman), Hon. Mr. G. M. Fowler, Hon. Mr. W. H. Figg, J. G. Wardrop, Esq., L. Creasy. Esq., J. H. Bostock, Esq., and Capt. J. A. Legge.

Read and confirmed minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 21st December, 1903.

Mooring Charges.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, No. 19 of 16th January, 1904, sanctioning a mooring charge of R15 a day to be levied on all vessels remaining in the harbour for over twelve days. Resolved at the Chairman's suggestion : " That further enquiry be made as to the application of this rule to native vessels, and the matter be considered at the next meeting."

Minutes of a Meeting of the Colombo Harbour Board, held on Monday, 15th Febuary, 1904, at 12 noon.

Present:—The Hon. Mr. W. H. Jackson (Chairman) Messrs. L. Creasy and J. H. Bostock.

The minutes of the meeting of January 25th were read and confirmed.

Mooring Charges of Vessels.

Re the question of mooring charges of vessels, it was resolved :—" That the mooring charge be made applicable to all vessels liable to pay harbour dues, but that in the case of sailing ships it be waived for vessels detained for necessary repairs to be effected without undue delay, or remaining in the harbour, because, in the opinion of the Master-Attendant, they could not put to sea without risk. Remaining in the harbour merely to avoid hire of a tug to take the ship out of port not to be held a sufficient cause for detention."

The Extension of The Quay-wall Stopped.

Read letter from the Colonial Secretary, No. 1 of 28th January, stating that His Excellency the Governor has decided to retain the wooden staging for the present instead of extending the permanent quay-wall to the passenger jetty and erecting permanent jetties, etc.

Width of Southern Entrance to the Harbour.

Read correspondence with regard to width of the southern entrance of the Colombo harbour. Resolved :—"That it be pointed out to Government that no reply appears to have been made to the suggestion from the Admiralty—*vide* letter of December 30th, 1903—that the southern end of the detached breakwater should not be permanently completed till experience has shown whether any modification is necessary."

Minutes of a Meeting of the Colombo Harbour Board, held on Monday, 21st March, 1904, at 12 noon.

Present :—The Hon. Mr. W. H. Jackson (Chairman), Capt. J. A. Legge, J. H. Bostock, Esq., J. G. Wardrop, Esq., and A. J. R. de Soysa, Esq.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th February last were read and confirmed.

Salvage Plant.

Read letter regarding salvage plant from Messrs. Merryweather & Sons, Ltd.—Resolved : "That no action be taken at present."

Native Vessels and Epidemics.

Read letter from the Colonial Secretary regarding medical inspection of native vessels.—Resolved : "That under present conditions it is impossible to reserve any special berth for native vessels to moor in before medical inspection. The Board, therefore, is of opinion that all native vessels entering port should proceed straight to the anchorage of native vessels and if, after inspection by the Port Surgeon, any vessel is held to be infected, or suspected of epidemic disease, she be immediately taken in tow

by the Government tug and berthed in that portion of the harbour that is at once must be removed from the traffic of the port and available for use, and that no other vessels be moored near the vessels in question."

Harbour Tugs Necessary.—Their Use to be Made Compulsory.

Read and considered letter No. 5 of 29th February from the Colonial Secretary on the subject of the Government tugs.—Resolved: "That in the opinion of this Board the use of powerful tugs of the type purchased is necessary. While the risk to each individual ship entering the port without the use of a tug is trifling, a cumulative risk to the port of all shipping entering without use of such tug is considerable. In the interest, therefore, of the port the use of the tugs should be made compulsory and the cost of their use met by an addition to the pilotage fees."

Walker, Sons & Co.'s Slip.

Read application to Government by Messrs. Walker, Sons & Co. for extension of lease of the land on which their slip stands.—Resolved: "That as the lease in question does not fall in until fifteen years hence the Board is of opinion that it is not advisable to promise an extension."

The North-West Breakwater.

Read letter No. 6 from the Colonial Secretary of the 2nd March, 1904, intimating that it has been decided not to leave the South end of the North-West breakwater incompleted as suggested by the Admiralty in December last.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Colombo Harbour Board, held on Monday, 18th April, 1904, at 12 noon.

Present:—The Hon. Mr. W. H. Jackson (Chairman), Hon. Mr. G. M. Fowler, Hon. Mr. W. H. Figg, Hon. Mr. F. A. Cooper, Capt. J. A. Legge, and J. G. Wardrop, Esq.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st March were read and confirmed.

Read letter No. 8 from the Colonial Secretary of the 15th instant on the subject of the harbour tugs.

It was resolved, after discussion, that the harbour dues scale be revised, and that to that end the Chairman prepare tables for consideration at the next meeting of the Board.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Colombo Harbour Board held on Monday, 16th May, 1904, at 12 Noon.

Present :—The Hon. Mr. W. H. Jackson, (Chairman), Hon. Mr. G. M. Fowler, Hon. Mr. W. H. Figg, G. H. Bostock, Esq.

1. Read and confirmed minutes of the meeting of the 18th April, 1904.

2. The consideration of the best method of meeting the cost of working and up-keep of the two tugs was resumed.

Resolved :—" That a scale on the base of 6 cents. a ton (nett register)—in accordance with the table drawn up by the Chairman for harbonr dues on every vessel entering the port—be adopted.' This would bring in an increase revenue of R126,000, which would almost meet the sum required : the deficiency to be met from the general revenue of the port.

3. The Chairman brought before the Board the question of the erection of an additional electric crane on the Master-Attendant's jetty. Resolved :—" That the Government be recommended to sanction the erection of two electric cranes on the Master-Attendant's jetty."

Minutes of a Meeting of the Colombo Harboer Board held on Momday, 20th June, 1904, at 12 Noon.

Present :—The Hon. Mr. W. H. Jackson (Chairman). Hon. Mr. W. H. Figg, Hon. Mr. G. M. Fowler, A. J. R. de Soysa, Esq., Hon. Mr. F. A. Cooper, and J. H. Bostock, Esq.

Read and confirmed minutes of the meeting of the 16th, May, 1904.

Read letter No. 132 of 28th May, 1904, from the Colonial Secretary to the Master-Attendant, with regard to the removal of buoy No. 12.

The Board note the letter forwarded as to the removal of buoy 12, which is the first information which they have had on the subject. The Board observe with some alarm that, through the completion of the new breakwater approaches the area for berthing vessels in the port is apparently being restricted, and they would ask for further information as to the necessity for the removal of the buoy.

Read letter No. 842 of the 4th June, 1904, from the Colonial Secretary to the Director of Public Works approving extension of the Oil and Plumbago jetty.